

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. XLVI.]

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, 22ND DECEMBER, 1897.

No. 26.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	481
Leading Articles:—	
Germany and the Occupation of Kiaochau	482
The Future of Kiaochau	482
The Protection of Chinese British Subjects	483
The Anti-Opium Society and its Work	483
Hongkong Legislative Council	484
Supreme Court	484
Scandalous Delay at the Supreme Court	487
Hongkong Sanitary Board	488
Hongkong Benevolent Society	488
Alarming Attack on Haiphong	488
Extraordinary Adventure with Smugglers	489
Plague on the Mail Steamer	489
The Straits Chinaman Imprisoned at Amoy	489
How Hongkong was not Captured	489
Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	490
The New Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited	490
Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited	490
The Yeh Loong Cotton Spinning Co., Limited	491
Polo	491
Cricket	491
Correspondence	491
Suppression of an Insurrection	491
The Trans-Siberian Railway	492
Russian Alarms	492
A Russian Military Adviser for China	492
Hongkong and Port News	492
Commercial	493
Shipping	493

BIRTHS.

At the Government Civil Hospital, on the 16th instant, the wife of J. DALTON, of a son.

At No. 19-21, Mosque Street, on the morning of Sunday, the 19th inst., the wife of Mr. G. J. SEQUEIRA, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At the German Chapel, on Monday, the 20th December, 1897, by the Rev. H. Rieke, THEODOR BUNGE, of Kobe, Japan, to ELIZABETH TREBSDOFF, daughter of OTTO TREBSDOFF, of Hamburg, Germany.

On Tuesday, the 7th December, 1897, at the Union Chapel, Chefoo, by the Rev. E. Tomalin, the Rev. CALVIN WIGHT, of the American Presbyterian Church, to Miss IDA JEAN EMERICK, of the China Inland Mission.

DEATHS.

At Tokyo, Hongo, Kaga-yashiki, No. 1, on Thursday, 9th December, MARGARET THERESA, beloved wife of EDWARD DIVERS, M.D., F.R.S.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 16th December, BENJAMIN B. C. POWELL, of Philadelphia. Deeply regretted.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 15th November arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, on the 15th December (30 days); and the American mail of the 18th November arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 20th December (32 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The *Japan Gazette* says there are some 50,000 bags of German beet sugar at present in stock at Yokohama.

The financial stringency recently prevailing in Shanghai has been relieved to a considerable extent by the arrival of a large quantity of silver.

The King of Siam, returning from his European tour, arrived at Singapore on the 10th December and left the same day for Bangkok.

At Shanghai the other day there was not a single foreign sailing vessel, either fore-and-aft or square-rigged, in the harbour, exclusive, of course, of pilot boats.

Twenty-six thousand dollars are to be spent on the erection of a British Consulate at Chungking, and \$85,000 on a summer residence for the British Minister at Peking.—*N. C. Daily News*.

In Japan property owners are resenting the rates at present charged by the Fire Insurance Companies and at Yokohama the idea of establishing a Co-operative Insurance Company has been mooted.

According to the *China Gazette* it was reported in Peking that Herr Detring is to come back to China in a new rôle, having been assigned a high post in the administrative department of the new German colony at Kiaochau.

The *China Gazette* believes that Major Jameson, M.P., and Sir Westman Pearson, Bart. the famous English railway constructor, will arrive about January or February next to commence operations on the railway from Shanghai to Chinkiang and Nanking.

Sir Claude MacDonald had an audience with the Emperor on the 15th December at which he expressed the thanks of H.M. Queen Victoria for the Emperor's recognition of her Jubilee. The ceremony was very imposing, and everything passed off very smoothly.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The news that the Belgian loan is now an accomplished fact is confirmed; and we learn that the Tsungli Yamén, which had previously only given its consent to the loan being made, has now arranged to guarantee it in the event of any failure of the original plan of security.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A Japanese Imperial Ordinance has been issued to the effect that the value of chopped silver yen, the circulation of which has been made legal tender in Formosa, will be estimated as 1,037 for 1,000 yen gold until further notice. A further Ordinance announces that the circulation of unchopped silver yen will be stopped after the 1st April next.

Mr. W. F. Tyler, of the Harbour Department of the Imperial Maritime Customs, together with a diver, leaves Shanghai for Chungking almost immediately, in order to inspect the rapids formed by the landslip which occurred there some time ago, with a view to the partial removal of the fallen rock by dynamite, in order to widen and deepen the channel.—*Mercury*.

Telegraphic information has been received at Shanghai from the Foreign Office stating that the separation of the Chief Judgeship of the Supreme Court from the Consulship-General is to come into effect on the arrival of Mr. G. Jamieson, C.M.G., who is appointed Consul-General. Mr. Jamieson was a passenger by the N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, which left Hongkong for Shanghai on Saturday.

The Japanese *Official Gazette* announces that on the 16th ult. 11 cases of bubonic plague occurred at Rokko, Taichu prefecture, Formosa, and another case on the 1st inst.

A despatch from Peking states that the Throne has appointed Prince Ching, and their excellencies Li Hung-chang and Chang Ying-huan as Commissioners to arrange with Baron von Heyking as to the German demands.—*N. C. Daily News*.

One outcome of the occupation of Kiaochau by Germany is said by the Japanese vernacular press to be a postponement of the payment by China of the balance of the war indemnity to Japan. The Chinese Government hoped to pay the balance off in May next, but Germany's action has upset arrangements completely. In view of this altered state of things, Viscount Takashima, Minister of the War Department, has submitted for the Cabinet's consideration a bill for the cost of repairing the temporary barracks of the Japanese Garrison at Wei-hai-wei.

M. Lorgeau arrived at Bangkok from Rangoon on the 5th December and succeeds M. Hardouin as French Consul. He will be chief of the Legation until the return of M. Defrance. It is not, says the *Bangkok Times*, as a stranger that M. Lorgeau comes to Bangkok, for he has already been a member of the Consular body there for a considerable number of years; and noted as M. Hardouin was as a Siamese scholar, M. Lorgeau is at least equally distinguished. He will be very heartily welcomed back by all who knew him in the old days in Bangkok. As a diplomat the new Consul bears a very high reputation, and he was always able to impress both sides with his perfect fairness in all questions that arose between the Governments.

The *Shanghai Mercury* says:—The steamer *Yungping*, of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., is at present undergoing alterations to her cabin fittings in order that some ten European passengers may be accommodated. With the same Co.'s steamer *Peiping* she will maintain a service throughout the winter between Chefoo and Peitaiho, carrying mails and passengers. Thus Tientsin and Peking, it may be said, will be open throughout the winter. At Chefoo the *Yungping* and *Peiping* will connect with steamers from Shanghai. The landing-place at Peitaiho is about 1½ miles from a railway station on the Shanhaikwan line running to Tientsin and connecting there with Peking.

Native despatches received from Chefoo report that the Germans have also occupied the city of Chimô, some distance from the city of Kiaochau on the mainland, which they entered on pretext of calling upon the district magistrate, and that their outposts on the 3rd instant were as far as the hamlet of Nukuk'ou, on the Kiao river. The territory occupied by the Germans is estimated at something approaching three or four hundred square miles so far. At Nukuk'ou there is a likin station which has also been taken possession of by the Germans, who have also begun collecting taxes on imported and exported goods. The brigade of General Chang Kao-yuan has been ordered by an edict of the 2nd instant to make a retrograde movement to Chefoo in order to prevent any conflict with the Germans.—*N. C. Daily News*.

GERMANY AND THE OCCUPATION OF KIAOCHAU.

It is satisfactory to find that the statement that Germany was to evacuate Kiaochau and receive instead a port in Fukien is officially denied. If Germany is to acquire a coaling station in China—and there can be no objection to such acquisition from reasonable people—it is better that she should have one further north than Fukien, for more than one reason. In the first place, she will be able to exercise more influence at Peking from the coast of Shantung than from an obscure port in one of the Southern provinces. In the second place, the cession of a port so near to the metropolitan province will tend to humble the arrogant mandarins. They are very much allied to the ostrich in their manner of thought. As the noble bird of the desert is prone to hide his head in the sand in a fatuous effort at concealment, so the imbeciles at Peking fondly imagine that if concession has to be made to the *Pan Kwei* it is an advantage that it should be made at as remote a distance from the capital as possible. The sting to their pride is modified, and they believe the humiliation is not so generally known. Another point is that, in view of a still all too possible partitionment of the Celestial Empire, the United Kingdom would naturally regard Fukien as within her sphere of influence, and would therefore prefer that no foreign settlements should be effected within that sphere. For Germany the advantages of retaining Kiaochau are obvious. Firmly seated there, she will be able the better to see that the various demands agreed to between the two Powers are properly carried out. The memorial to be erected in Shantung to the memory of the murdered missionaries, the payment of the expenses incurred in sending the punitive expeditions, the effective punishment of those concerned in the outrage, and the realisation of the pledge to utilise German engineers in the exploitation of mines in the province—all these can be better watched over from Kiaochau than from the South, at a great distance from the theatre of operations. The Peking Government have apparently decided that it will be advisable to comply with the terms required without delay, for the degradation of LI PING-HING, the Governor of Shantung, is already announced. This is as it should be. Punishment and reparation should follow on crime or outrage promptly and fully in order that its deterrent influence may be widely felt.

The settlement of this Shantung outrage by the German Government forms a curious contrast to the very unsatisfactory reparation exacted by the British Government for the horrible massacres at Kucheng. The word reparation, however, is out of place in the latter case, for there was no reparation asked and certainly none proffered. It was only by the aid of the United States Representatives that any satisfaction at all was obtained at Kucheng. Some coolies who were more or less implicated in the savage butchery of innocent women and children were found guilty and suffered decapitation, but there expiation ceased; the instigators of the outrage were allowed to escape. A trifling monetary indemnity to the families of the victims was paid, but no punishment was ever inflicted on the Government which permitted and encouraged a long series of atrocities and outrages in the Yangtze Valley and elsewhere, which finally led up to the slaughter at Kucheng. Had the British Government of the day possessed any backbone it would certainly have insisted upon some reparation being made

either in the shape of new ports being opened to trade, the grant of some new trading privileges, or the rectification of the boundaries of this colony. The latter had not at that time become a burning question; but something should have been exacted that would have wounded Chinese vanity to concede in order to make the lesson a permanent one. It may be, and is, objected by some of the Powers that the demands of Germany were excessive, and that she hastened to seize the opportunity to press for what she had long since determined to obtain as the price of her intervention in favour of China after the late war with Japan. But however that may be, it is certain that none of the Powers will make any protest, and it cannot be doubted that the moral effect of the action now taken will be beneficial to foreign interests generally.

THE FUTURE OF KIAOCHAU.

Notwithstanding the reports to the contrary published a few days ago, it is becoming increasingly evident that Germany has gone to Kiaochau to stay, and not merely to occupy the place temporarily as a means of enforcing compliance with other demands for reparation for the murder of German missionaries. The cession of Kiaochau itself is, in fact, the chief item in the bill of reparation. Prince HENRY is coming out "to preach abroad the gospel of His Sacred Majesty" the Emperor of Germany, and with instructions from "His Sacred Majesty" to "strike with his mailed fist" in case of affront or prejudice. The latter may perhaps be regarded as a threat to the world at large to abstain from interference, rather than as directed against China in particular, and the expression is in keeping with the general peculiar tone of the Emperor's speeches. It is not likely, however, that any Power will wish to interfere, unless it be Russia, which was understood to have eyes on Kiaochau for herself; but it is probable that an understanding has been arrived at with that Power. But whether Russia consents or not, it is clear that Germany intends to remain at Kiaochau, and the first troop with Marines for the garrison has already sailed.

It is hardly worth while arguing on the ethical aspect of Germany's action, for a standard of ethics applicable to international relations, especially the relations between civilised and barbarous nations, can hardly be said to exist. When it is a case of substituting a just for an unjust government aggression may be regarded as a righteous act, for the people benefit thereby, while the rulers, who are the only ones to suffer, have generally nothing better than previous conquest to advance in support of their claim, as is the case in China, where the Government is a foreign one. Germany's action simply means the substitution in a part of China of one foreign Government for another and the substitution of civilisation for barbarism. However, for the satisfaction of the public conscience it is generally considered that there ought to be some cause of quarrel before aggression can be fully justified, and in the present case the cause of quarrel is the murder of two German missionaries. The case is somewhat weakened by the fact that the murder was committed by brigands, not in a popular uprising, and murders for ordinary criminal motives may of course take place in any country, even the most civilised. We note, however, that a writer in the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* sets up a case of full justification for Germany's action on the ground of ample provocation notwithstanding that the murder was the work of bandits.

Having given a detailed account of the murder he says:—"The immediate cause of this outbreak is a mystery, but the remote cause is perfectly clear. This particular murder is simply the fruit of a condition of things which the officials of Chaochoufu have permitted to grow up until it ripened in this atrocious attack." There had been many previous outrages, and since Li Ping-heng took over the Viceroyship at Chinanfu, our position has only grown worse. Mandarins known to be friendly to Europeans have been put aside, apparently as a matter of principle, while those left at their posts were encouraged to ill-treat Europeans. Calumnies regarding the missionaries were listened to with open ears and their circulation encouraged: justified complaints obtained no hearing and the most ignorant official felt himself called upon to furnish the missionary with warnings and exhortations." The "Big Sword" Society, once alleged to have been suppressed, has been quietly permitted to grow again, its adherents to hold armed assemblies and to go about as they choose without molestation. Some mandarins go so far as to afford the Society their protection. The result of this is to make this naturally rough people so much the bolder and to render Europeans more helpless and exposed to greater danger than ever."

Justification or no justification, however, Germany has long intended to acquire a station in China, and, having selected Kiaochau, the practical and important question is what she intends to do with it. The answer is supplied by an article in the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*, which from internal evidence may be taken as semi-official. This article has been translated and appears in English in the *N. C. Daily News* of the 14th December. It is written from Kiaochau Bay by a correspondent, who, having given a description of the country as viewed from one of the eminences, asks, "What shall we look down upon from this spot in ten—not to say a hundred—years hence? How will events develop?" He predicts that new harbour improvements will develop a new traffic, and new trade routes will be opened up, while the barren hills are to be clothed by German forestry. "The question now is," he says, "where to build the new trading settlement." Incidentally it is suggested that as there is a perfect beach the place will become a pleasure resort where Shanghai will take refuge from the summer heat and that we shall see bathing machines being pushed into the cool waves. That is not a consideration that would be likely to present itself to the minds of the German Government, or to be considered a special recommendation if it did present itself. It is not as a summer resort for Shanghai that Kiaochau has been taken, but for the purpose of making of it a German Hongkong, for the extension of German commerce and the promotion of Germany's political influence. We can only wish the new owners success in their enterprise.

We learn from Kiukiang under date the 13th inst. that two of the priests arrested by the Chinese authorities in connection with the Russian land purchase in the Kiukiang mountains have died under their tortures. There are three more in prison and they will all most likely shortly die if relief is not given them. The Russians do not seem to be doing anything for them. The Chinese authorities still refuse to stamp the Russian deed as the sale was a fraudulent one. The land there belongs to 43 clans and the priest who gave the deed had no authority whatever to do so.—*N. C. Daily News*.

THE PROTECTION OF CHINESE BRITISH SUBJECTS.

The case of the Straits Chinaman imprisoned at Amoy seems likely to raise important issues. In 1868 a notification was issued by the then British Minister to China (the late Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK) in which it was laid down that inasmuch as trouble had arisen from the fact that British subjects of Chinese descent travelling in China could not easily be differentiated from Chinamen, therefore no protection would be given to any Chinese British subject travelling in China unless while in China he discarded his Chinese dress. This notification was published in the *Hongkong Government Gazette* of the 7th November, 1868, together with a covering circular issued by the Minister to the Consuls, the effective portion of which is as follows:—"You will observe that it is left entirely optional to such persons to claim the status of British subjects within the Chinese territories or not as they may see fit; but in the event of their electing to sink their British nationality and reside or travel as Chinese among Chinese they cannot claim any exemption from the jurisdiction and laws of the country they adopt of their own free will and after due notice of the consequences." This regulation, though we believe it has never been formally repealed, has fallen into desuetude and can no longer be considered in force, recognition having been accorded in many instances since its issue to Chinese subjects of Her Majesty who have not discarded their usual dress. The latest instance was at Shanghai only a few months ago. It seems to have been assumed at Singapore at one time that the Minister's action in the Amoy case was based upon the regulation in question, but this can hardly have been so. According to the latest telegram from Singapore the Minister's reply to the Governor is that KHUN YONG holds land at Amoy, has a wife there, and passes as a Chinese subject. The reply does not seem to be very conclusive. The fact of the man's holding land and having a wife cannot be held to deprive him of his British nationality, and it is not stated explicitly in what way he has passed as a Chinese subject. According to his petition to the Governor of the Straits Settlements he only visited Amoy occasionally and for short periods, his domicile being at Singapore.

The preamble to Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK's notification runs:—"Whereas many persons of Chinese descent, who are or claim to be British subjects, go to reside or travel in the dominions of the Emperor of China, and whereas serious difficulty exists in distinguishing such British subjects from natives amenable to Chinese laws only, and accordingly great practical inconvenience frequently results to the parties themselves and to the authorities of both countries." The Amoy case affords a forcible illustration of this practical inconvenience, and any useful suggestion for a remedy would be welcome. The requirement formulated by Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, that Chinese British subjects should change their dress, does not afford a remedy. It would be intolerable that the question of whether a man should be tortured and robbed in a Chinese prison should be made to depend entirely on the cut of his clothes. If a Hongkong Chinaman went up to Canton on business, wearing the clothes he is accustomed to, and were arrested by the native authorities with a view

to his being squeezed, the British Government could not stand by and see the outrage carried out, whatever laws as to the man's dress might be in force. The objection of the Chinese to change their dress is, moreover, so strong that any law requiring them to do so must in practice remain a dead letter. Nor can failure to register at the Consulate always be held a sufficient reason for refusing to officially recognise Chinese British subjects. Regard must be had to the circumstances of each case, and as the *Straits Times* suggests, a distinction may be drawn between naturalized and born British subjects. One thing is clear, however, and that is that strong pressure should be brought to bear on Chinese British subjects to make them register, and, although failure to register might in the case of a born subject not be deemed sufficient reason for abandoning him to the tender mercies of the mandarins, it would be reasonable to impose on him some very substantial penalty for such failure.

It is curious, however, to note the difference in the attitudes taken up on this question by Great Britain and other Powers. In Siam France endeavours to increase her influence by according her protection to almost any Asiatic who likes to ask for it and making it effective whenever any question arises with the native authorities, and she would no doubt pursue the same course in China were the circumstances equally favourable. If KHUN YONG had been a Saigon Chinaman and had appealed to the French Consul at Amoy his appeal, we imagine, would have been received in a very different manner than it has been by the British Consul and Minister. Going further from home we may note, too, how prompt Germany has been to assert her influence in Hayti on the strength of a case in which the son of a Haytian mother, who was claimed by the Haytian Government to be a native of the country, but who was inscribed at the German Legation as a German subject, was dealt with criminally by the local authorities. Germany demanded prompt reparation and made such a demonstration that her demands have been complied with. In that case the man was the son of a German father and the position taken up by Germany in the matter was no doubt correct. If England wished to embarrass China she would be equally correct in demanding reparation in the case of KHUN YONG, who, according to his Straits passport, is a British subject by birth and the son of British subjects. Whether there is any real justification for refusing to recognise him is a question on which judgment must be suspended until more is known of the facts of the case.

THE ANTI-OPIMUM SOCIETY AND ITS WORK.

We do not hear much, in this *fin de siècle*, of the doings of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade. Not that we want to hear either of or from that eminently mischievous body; Exeter Hall and the factions which there find a home or headquarters are still far too much in evidence for the welfare of the Empire or for the cause of rational progress. Now that China has, by legalising the cultivation of opium and subjecting the native drug to a comparatively light duty, practically subsidised the home grown article, the import of Indian opium is on the decline. There is still a very considerable demand for good Malwa and Bengal drug owing to a large proportion of the smokers

being accustomed to the use of a good and pure article. But a race is rising that, never having known the taste of the Indian drug, will be quite contented with the less soothing and more acrid opium produced in Yunnan, Szechuen, and Kweichow. Little by little the Chinese drug will supersede the Indian opium, until the import of the latter will become trifling as compared with the consumption. But let not the Opium Society flatter themselves that the trade has been killed, or that the habit is less prevalent than it was. Such indeed is far from the fact. The amount of opium imported into China from India and Persia is smaller than it was—only 48,994 piculs in 1896 as compared with 51,306 piculs in 1895—but the consumption of the drug has largely increased. Fully two-thirds of the opium used is now raised in various provinces of China and in Manchuria, and the Yunnan and Szechuen drug has this year made its appearance on the Hongkong market. The net result of the misguided efforts of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade is that, while the Indian Opium trade has been considerably curtailed, the habit of opium smoking has been greatly increased by the facility with which the luxury can now be obtained, thanks to the fostering care of the Chinese Government, in discriminating the tax on the home raised product. This was a result foreseen and predicted years ago, when the Society was agitating for permission to be accorded to the Peking Authorities to increase the duties. That the evil would become so serious in so short a time as has proved to be the case we did not anticipate, but it required no prophet to foretell that if the poppy were to be substituted for rice and other grain crops it would not be long before disaster would follow.

This result has been achieved in only too many districts. Land on which formerly the village rice or millet crops flourished now bears the scarlet poppy flaunting on its breast, and opium divans abound in every town and village of the provinces mentioned. A correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary paints a most dismal picture of the effects of the opium habit in Szechuen. That province, the most extensive and perhaps the fairest in all China, containing the largest population, possessing the richest natural resources in the Empire, is becoming simply demoralised through this vice, to which young and old are now alike addicted. He says that a recent missionary tour to the districts of Nanchuan and Fuchou has revealed the fact that the poppy is now being cultivated almost universally in those regions. Within his memory the production of the drug must have doubled, and he is not surprised to find that the price of food is high in consequence. The western provinces of China have produced opium for a long period of years, but it was not until the relaxation of the Imperial Decrees—which of late years have been allowed to become a dead letter—against the cultivation of the poppy that the industry received the stimulus that has caused the conversion of the rice grounds into poppy fields. The Chinese officials share the profits with the cultivators, and they connive at the smuggling of the drug into other provinces. Under the former condition of affairs, when the Chinese in the maritime provinces drew almost the whole of their opium supply from foreign countries the habit was limited on account of its cost; it is now, owing to the low price of native drug, within the reach of the poorest classes. The crusade of the anti-opium fanatics has therefore had the effect of slowly killing trade in the Indian opium, but, *pari passu*,

immensely increasing the prevalence of the opium habit in China. Even Exeter Hall will hardly consider this a satisfactory outcome of so much vituperative energy.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 20th December in the Council Chamber. Present:—

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, G.C.M.G.

His EXCELLENCY Major-General BLACK, C.B. (Officer Commanding the Forces).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The report of the Finance Committee (No. 12) was adopted on the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, seconded by the COLONIAL TREASURER.

LIGHT DUES.

The HARBOUR MASTER—Sir, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name. Section 33 of Ordinance 26 of 1891 provides that the rate of light dues shall be fixed by order of the Governor pursuant to a resolution of this Council, and the resolution which I am about to move will be the first step towards fixing the rate of light dues from the 1st January next. The subject of light dues is one which has received a considerable amount of attention and much has been written and spoken on the subject, but not in all cases have those who have written or spoken had a very intimate knowledge of the subject. As an instance of this kind I would point to a letter, which was laid on this table, written by my friend the Secretary of the P. and O. Company to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in which it was confidently stated that 5,772,289 tons, which was the amount of European shipping entering this harbour in 1895, would at the rate of 1 cent. per ton for light dues produce upwards of \$57,000. This was inaccurate and 30 per cent. out. As a matter of fact 1 cent per ton for light dues in 1895 would have produced \$43,557, instead of, as he says, upwards of \$57,000. Many other instances of inaccuracy are also to be found in the petition which was forwarded to the Government and signed by the members of the leading commercial firms and others. One of those inaccuracies was that the taxing of ships in aid of the general revenue was opposed to the policy of the leading commercial nations. I do not suppose that those gentlemen who signed that petition, even if they read it—which is not always the practice in this colony—would object to my saying that the United States of America might be considered a leading commercial nation. In 1886 they levied a tax of 6 to 30 cents per ton per annum, and the money raised was applied first to the extinction of the public debt; secondly, to the cost of national defence; and thirdly, to public uses generally. There is another inaccuracy in the petition. The petitioners said—"We very much doubt if in any civilized country has a deliberate attempt ever been made to raise a profit revenue out of light dues. They have always been imposed for the express purpose of providing for the construction and maintenance of lighthouses, buoys, and beacons and for no other purpose whatsoever." I asked just now that the United States of America might be considered as a leading commercial nation. Now I do not suppose there will be any objection to

England or the United Kingdom being taken as a highly "civilized country." In 1888 the light dues in England were raised to 5 per cent. to supply a deficit in the Mercantile Marine Fund, and in 1892 there was sufficient surplus to pay off £100,000 debt of that fund. There are many other instances of inaccuracy in the petition, but the most astounding of them all is the one which asserts that a levy of 2½ cents per ton on shipping coming to this port would deter ships from coming to it. The assertion, sir, is in my opinion so utterly ridiculous that it is not worth while taking up the time of the Council half one minute with arguments against it. There were no arguments in favour of it; it was just a bare assertion, and I think it will be more complimentary to the gentlemen who signed that petition to believe they did not err in ignorance but that it was merely to raise a bogey to scare the Government into their own way of thinking. The effect of the resolution which I have the honour to propose will be that from the 1st January next the largest ship which has up to the present day entered this port will pay as her contribution, when she comes here next, trading in the waters of the colony, £4. That same ship will carry cargo amounting to 7,500 tons, and at the rate of freight—which will not be exceptional—of 30/- she will earn in freight £10,000, and she will come here and pay £4. The average ship that comes here will pay \$13 and the river steamers, aggregating a tonnage of nearly 1½ million tons, will pay \$2,500—\$2,500 for 1½ million tons. Side by side with that they will be paying five or six times that amount to the Government of China for one or two Chinese ports they enter. They will be earning nearly \$600,000 in passage money only for those ports and they will be paying their shareholders 16 per cent. Borrowing, sir, from a phrase which has become almost a sort of catch-word among a certain section of the community, namely, that "the shipping is the life blood of this colony," I submit to the Council that what is chiefly remarkable is the miserably feeble amount of sustenance which the colony will derive from its life blood. (Hear, hear.) With these remarks I beg to move the resolution.

The resolution provides for the exaction of light dues from the 1st of January next on all ships entering the waters of the colony at the rate of 1 per cent. per ton. All steamers plying only between Hongkong and Canton, or Macao, or the West River, which enter the waters of the colony by night, shall pay one-third of a cent per ton.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Sir, I have listened with very great attention to the remarks of the Hon. Harbour Master, and on the spur of the moment I am not in a position to accept as Gospel all that he has said; but I have not the least doubt in the world that what he has said is founded on the best information that was at his disposal. I think that it is an extremely fortunate thing for Hongkong that the home authorities have taken the same view of this question as the local shipping community have taken. They have throughout been very desirous that shipping should pay its own way and that what money is required for the maintenance and upkeep of the lighthouses and the maintenance and regulation of the harbour should be borne by the shipping. I have not the least doubt in the world that Macao is actuated by wise motives in following the example which had been originally set by Hongkong in making it a free port. I think that Macao might even go further and do as others have suggested in Hongkong, namely, that the Hongkong Government should offer a premium to shipping to come here. It would pay us in the end; I am sure it would, sir. The more shipping we attract here the greater will be our trade and greater the attending advantages. In every direction we should gain by taking such a step. My friend (the Harbour Master) smiles, but I can smile also. I think the community of Hongkong will long remain under a great debt of gratitude to your Excellency for having recommended the home Government to tax the dues on shipping to what will simply reimburse the Government for the outlay thereon. I have no amendment to propose and I shall support the resolution.

The resolution was carried.

THE NEW PUBLIC OFFICES.

In pursuance of notice Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked the following question:—Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the home authorities and the Colonial Government in connection with the proposed new Public Offices subsequent to that already published?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The question of new Public Offices has been referred to the Public Works Committee of this Council. It is not proposed to publish any further papers in connection with this matter until the report of that Committee has been received.

NATURALIZATION ORDINANCE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in the absence of the Attorney-General, who was engaged at the Supreme Court, moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the naturalization of Wong Chuk-yau, alias Wong Man, alias Wong Sun in.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Bill read the first time.

MISDEMEANOURS PUNISHMENT

ORDINANCE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the more effectual punishment of bribery and certain other misdemeanours.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Bill read the first time.

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

His EXCELLENCY—That is all the business, gentlemen. I hope you will thoroughly enjoy your Christmas holidays, which have been well earned. I propose to adjourn the Council *sine die* and I am glad to be able to do so without any prejudice to the public service whatever. I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Applause.)

SUPREME COURT.

15th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

GUBBAY AND OTHERS v. BELILIOS.

The hearing was resumed of the equity suit in which the plaintiffs, D. A. Gubbay, A. J. Raymond, and A. J. David petitioned the Court, on behalf of themselves and of all others of the Jewish community in Hongkong, except the defendant, for a declaration that the defendant purchased a certain lot of land in this colony known as Inland Lot No. 1,381, as a trustee for and on behalf of the plaintiffs and of all the other members of the Jewish community in Hongkong, and that he now held the property in trust for the Jewish community subject to the payment to him of whatever monies he expended in the purchase.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. O. D. Thomson, of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings), appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendant.

Mr. Francis proceeded to call rebutting evidence.

Mr. D. Silas said—I am an assistant in the firm of D. Sassoon, Sons & Co. and a member of the Jewish community in this colony. I arrived from Shanghai about January, 1895, and about eight or nine months afterwards I took up the duties of hon. secretary to the Jewish community. I took over the papers in connection with the new synagogue from E. D. Sassoon and Co., who were looking over the old synagogue affairs at that time. I took considerable interest in the question of the new synagogue and I applied to Messrs. Leigh and Orange to prepare plans with a view to the erection of a new synagogue. At that time there was no regular Committee in existence. The letter, dated 20th May, 1896, to Jacob E. Sassoon, of London, was prepared by me. There is a reference to the report by Messrs. Leigh and Orange on the proposed new synagogue, and plans and drawings were forwarded with the report. The letter is signed by Mr. Belilios, who saw the letter before he signed it. He also saw Leigh and Orange's plans. Before dealing with the

question of the new synagogue I wanted to know the cost of the new building and the means at our disposal. I therefore requested Messrs. Leigh and Orange to carefully make a small plan and a report. They sent them to me after they were prepared and I showed them to Mr. D. R. Sassoon and Mr. Moses, my seniors, and then took them to Mr. Belilios. I showed him the plan and report, which he carefully examined. He asked me several questions. One question he asked me was why a portion marked on the plan was left out and I said it was the intention of the architects to apply to the Government for a lot less than that portion, which was about 10,000 square feet. I afterwards said that if the Government consented that portion would not be enough for building purposes. That was what the architects had told me. I believe at that time I had the plans prepared by Mr. Lemm and the earlier plans prepared by Danby, Leigh, and Orange. Mr. Belilios asked me what funds were available. I said they amounted to between \$25,000 and \$26,000, which included Mr. Jacob Sassoon's expected \$5,000. No application was made to the Government for the small portion of land between the date of Leigh and Orange's report of 5th October, 1895, and the letter to Mr. Sassoon in May, 1896. I knew that Mr. Danby had, on Mr. Belilios's instructions, applied for lot 1,381 to be put up for sale.

Mr. Francis—You received a letter from Mr. Moses to that effect?

Mr. Pollock objected to his friend putting a leading question.

His Lordship thought the question could be put.

Mr. Francis—My learned friend had better go to school again and he will learn what a leading question is.

His Lordship asked Mr. Francis not to speak like that.

Mr. Francis—Well, my Lord, I must resent such an objection as that. The definition of a leading question is one that is abundantly clear. A leading question is one that suggests an answer on a material point. If my friend was half as competent to examine a witness as I am we should have shortened the case considerably.

His Lordship was understood to ask Mr. Francis not to create any ill feeling.

Counsel then repeated the question and witness said—I did receive a letter from Mr. Moses in May, 1896. Before I received the letter from Mr. Moses in May, 1896, I had no intimation from Mr. Belilios that he intended to buy three lots in Kennedy Road for the purpose of building houses there, nor did I have any conversation at all with Mr. Danby as to building on that ground. I did not have any conversation with Mr. Danby at about the time the land was put up for sale. He was not in communication with me at all. After the ground was purchased Mr. Danby asked me if I had heard that the community had engaged Messrs. Leigh and Orange to erect the synagogue buildings, and he wanted to know why he was not engaged, as he had prepared the old plan himself. I said it was very handy to me as Leigh and Orange were the firm's architects. Mr. Danby did not like that and said it was not fair. From that time up to the meeting on the 15th March I had no conversation with Mr. Danby with reference to 1,381 or the upper lots, either in his office or elsewhere. During the same period Mr. Belilios told me that he had bought the two upper lots for his own purposes and that he proposed to erect terraces on them. He never expressed his intention of making use of the two upper lots in conjunction with the lower lot. After we received the letter from Mr. Belilios refusing to give up the whole of the lot I had a conversation with him about the 15th March and before the meeting. That was the first time I knew he wanted an approach to the upper lots from the lower lot. Before receiving the letter of the 8th March from Mr. Belilios asking our architects to confer with Mr. Danby as to the portion of the lot required, I had not heard any suggestion that Mr. Belilios proposed to keep a part of the lot. I did not hear from Mr. Ezekiel, one of the directors, about the difference between the Land Investment Company and Mr. Danby in reference to the two upper lots. I remember receiving the letter of the 3rd July, 1896, in which Mr. Belilios hoped the trustees would be present at the sale.

I enquired of Messrs. Leigh and Orange and the Land Investment Company whether they intended to compete for the lot.

Mr. Pollock submitted that was not rebutting evidence, as his friend had put in the letter in his opening.

Mr. Francis contended that it was distinctly rebutting evidence, as it was flatly contradicting statements made by Mr. Belilios as to the reason why the trustees did not attend. Mr. Belilios in his evidence endeavoured to misrepresent the meaning of the letter and he stated that the trustees did not attend because they had given up all idea of buying the lot. Mr. Silas's evidence would show that that was not so and he would also show why they did not attend.

Mr. Pollock—Mr. Belilios did not say that; he said the trustees did not attend.

Mr. Francis—I am afraid my friend's note-taking prevented him from hearing all that was said.

His Lordship said he had clearly indicated that the pleadings as they stood raised the issue that the defendant did not buy the land as one of the trustees for the Jewish community, but that he bought it for his own purpose. The issue on that point lay on the plaintiffs, and it was for them to show that he had it not for himself, but as a trustee for the Jewish community. At the hearing a counter defence, so to speak, was raised that the defendant intended to give them only a portion of the lot. That defence was a reasonable and probable one, and his Lordship had held that the plaintiffs might give evidence in reply to the counter defence, but at the same time he indicated that they would not be allowed to give evidence by way of sustaining the issue that originally lay on them. His Lordship did not think the question objected to ought to be put by Mr. Francis.

Witness, continuing—After receiving the letter from Mr. Belilios refusing to give over the whole lot I saw him in Mr. Chater's office. That was about the 15th March and before the meeting in Mr. Danby's office. I asked Mr. Belilios the reason for refusing to transfer the whole of the lot and said he knew very well that it was all along the intention of the trustees to have the whole of the site.

Mr. Pollock said his friend ought to have cross-examined Mr. Belilios on the point.

His Lordship gave Mr. Pollock leave to re-examine Mr. Belilios if he so desired.

Witness—Mr. Belilios told me he wanted an approach to the upper lots, otherwise the value of the upper lots would depreciate. Then he said he meant by approach a roadway. We asked him how much land he required for it. He said he required a very small piece, and asked me to meet him in Mr. Danby's office in the afternoon and he would then tell me. The meeting at Mr. Danby's office was the direct result of that interview. I asked Mr. Orange to come with us. We went there with the object of trying to meet Mr. Belilios's demand for the sake of peace and not, as Mr. Belilios said, for the purpose of ascertaining what ground was required for the synagogue. It was not for the purpose of ascertaining how much we were to give Mr. Belilios. Mr. Danby explained what Mr. Belilios wanted. He did not explain what Mr. Belilios proposed to do with his upper lots. I do not recollect whether he showed the terraces or slopes on the plan. Mr. Orange had a plan and he discussed it with Mr. Danby to see how much land could be spared for Mr. Belilios. After a little discussion Mr. Orange found that, if I remember correctly, he could spare something about 10,000 square feet. Mr. Belilios and Mr. Danby approved of this and then Mr. Belilios raised the question of having a retaining wall between the spare ground and the synagogue ground. He said we should pay half the cost of the wall. We said, "it is not fair on your part to put us to that expense after we have allowed a piece for your own use." He said the wall supported our lot and his and therefore we ought to pay half the cost. After a long dispute with us we thought it was not worth while to quarrel over the matter and if it was a small expense we would meet him on that point. Then we asked Mr. Danby what the retaining wall would cost, and he worked it out to be certainly not more than \$1,200. Mr. Belilios asked Mr. Danby to be sure it would not cost more, whereupon Mr. Danby worked out the cost and said he was almost sure

it would not be more than \$1,200. We said to Mr. Belilios, "Just to please you we will give you \$600, as half the cost." Mr. Belilios said, "I cannot settle on that point; I cannot agree to it, because the retaining wall might cost more or it might cost less, but whatever it costs the trustees should pay half." We said, "We could not accept any such liability; we have not got enough means to do so. We want to meet you amicably in this matter and we would not mind paying up to \$1,000." Mr. Belilios would not agree and as he was getting unreasonable I left, leaving the trustees with him. At the meeting of the 15th March defendant said that unless we agreed to pay half the cost of the retaining wall, whatever it came to, nothing was settled. About the beginning of March, and before the receipt of Mr. Belilios's letter of the 8th March stating that he would give only a portion, I went to the site with Mr. David, Mr. Orange, and Mr. Raymond. I did not at any time after the letter go with Mr. Danby to look at the site. I never told him that I would go with him to look at the site or that I would go with Mr. Orange. My object in going up at the beginning of March was to show Mr. Raymond the site. The visit had nothing whatever to do with Mr. Belilios's proposal about the division of the land. I remember the interview of the 17th January with Mr. Belilios. Nothing was said then about the giving or taking of any portion of the ground. I did not tell Mr. Belilios, as he stated, that we could not afford to take more than \$4,000 or \$5,000 worth of land. I do not recollect it at all.

Cross-examined—I was not formally appointed as hon. secretary. I acted as hon. secretary after the trustees were appointed. They were appointed immediately before the first letter was written to Mr. Jacob Sassoon. Nobody has paid for Leigh and Orange's report in October, 1895. They made the report at my request on the understanding that they would get the job of building the synagogue.

His Lordship—Then I suppose it will be charged for later on.

Witness—I do not know.

His Lordship—You might not see it, but it will be there, I suppose? (Laughter.)

Witness (continuing)—When Mr. D. R. Sassoon was appointed a trustee he said the Kennedy Road site was too public. To the best of my recollection from then till the 8th of March I heard no expression of opinion on the subject from him or any other person. When Mr. David was appointed trustee I heard he was not in favour of the site, but he was indifferent and would not object to the site if the other trustees were in favour of it. In January last he told me he was in favour of the site.

The case was further adjourned. Mr. Francis intimated that the evidence would probably be finished before the Criminal Sessions on the 18th, but the arguments could not be concluded by that time.

16th December.

The cross-examination of Mr. D. H. Silas was continued.

Witness—When Mr. Belilios told me he was going to build terraces on the upper lots I did not understand whether he meant terraces of houses or terraces of land. I did not ask him what he meant. I cannot remember what led up to that conversation about terraces. I think the conversation took place sometime last year after the sale of lot 1,381. Before the interview with Mr. Belilios on the morning of the 15th March I had no idea that he wished to utilize the upper lots in conjunction with the lower lot barring the letter I received between the 8th and 13th March. At the meeting on the 18th January, nothing whatever was said about ways and means. I "accidentally" asked Mr. Belilios what was the price. It was perhaps three days before that meeting that I heard that Mr. Belilios was opposed to the erection of the Sassoon tablet in the synagogue. The plaintiff's solicitors took the proof of my evidence before the action commenced. I may have spoken to plaintiffs' solicitors since the trial commenced about what evidence I could give. Perhaps I have reminded them of what I could say, but I am not certain. I did go to them. I think I did go. I really did not consider, defendant generous in buying the land. He paid the money but took the interest and I do

not consider that very generous. He was one of the trustees. The other trustees did not come forward to pay any of the money. I did not consult Messrs. Leigh and Orange about the cost of any retaining wall prior to the meeting of the 15th March.

By his Lordship—I was out of court when Mr. Belilios gave his evidence.

His Lordship—I suppose you have read Mr. Belilios's evidence in the newspapers?

Witness—Yes.

You are aware that Mr. Danby gave evidence?

—Yes.

Did you read his evidence all through in the papers?—Yes.

Since reading those gentlemen's evidence have you been to the plaintiffs' solicitors to make any definite statement with respect to the evidence you could give if you were called to give evidence in reply?—I went to my solicitor in reference to some points. I said certain points were not so. They did not take down what I said.

Why could you not have made a simple statement to Mr. Pollock?—I said I may have gone.

The gentlemen gave their evidence within the last few days: why could you not have given a direct answer to Mr. Pollock?—Mr. Pollock was asking me if I was giving evidence to them. I did not give any evidence.

His Lordship read over what the witness said and asked him to stand down.

Mr. Orange, architect and civil engineer, said—I was formerly in partnership with Mr. Danby and Mr. Leigh, and am now in partnership with Mr. Leigh. We are the architects for Messrs. D. R. Sassoon and Co. I remember preparing the report of the 19th October, 1895, at the request of Mr. Silas, and the sketch plan and tracing in connection with the proposed new synagogue were sent with the report. When preparing the plan we used only the plans of our late firm. The site was the same as the one suggested in 1891. In the report I recommended that a smaller lot should be applied for. I did not make any application to the Government to put up the ground in a smaller lot. We never applied for the ground to be put up for sale for the Jewish community. From the date of the report to the date of the sale we did not prepare any plans or reports for the creation of a synagogue. I have no doubt I had conversations with Mr. Silas on the subject, but not with Mr. Belilios. I first heard of the dispute between Mr. Belilios and the Jewish community about the appropriation of the land sometime in March. I was called upon to go with the trustees to Mr. Danby's office, but before then our firm wrote a letter to Mr. Danby in accordance with instructions. The letter referred to the transfer of lot 1,381. At the meeting held on the 15th March a line was drawn on our small sketch plan showing the portion of lot 1,381 which it was proposed to give to Mr. Belilios. The area to be given up was to the west of the lot and about 60 feet east and west and nearly the whole width. The area was about 10,000 square feet. Mr. Danby produced a contour plan and an outline of the proposed synagogue was drawn on some tracing paper. This was moved about on Mr. Danby's contour plan until a position was fixed. A line was then drawn to the west of the synagogue. Mr. Danby and I agreed that the line would give sufficient space for the synagogue and also would suit Mr. Belilios's purpose. Either Mr. Belilios or Mr. Danby said he would give a corner of 1,382 so as to give more room for the rabbi's residence. Mr. Danby then raised the question of the cost of the wall. Before that question arose I thought the proposed partition was agreed to by the parties. Mr. Danby asked who was going to pay for the wall. The trustees objected to pay and I said that so far as we were concerned we did not want a wall. Someone asked Mr. Danby what would be the approximate cost of the wall. Mr. Danby worked it out and said about \$1,200. He had the contour plan before him. Someone suggested that the cost should be halved. After some conversation the trustees agreed to pay a sum of \$600. Mr. Belilios objected to having a definite sum fixed and he insisted upon half of whatever sum the cost came to being paid. After a very animated conversation the trustees said they would agree to pay \$1,000, but Mr. Belilios insisted upon his first demand. Mr.

Danby said he would correctly work out the cost. Nothing was settled and the meeting broke up.

After luncheon witness said—If the whole lot had been dealt with it would not have been necessary to have had a retaining wall on any part of the south boundary as a slope would have been cut to maintain the upper land. I do not think I told Mr. Danby that we intended to build the synagogue at a level 20 feet above Kennedy Road. I could not have told him that because we were going to erect the building at a level the ground would naturally level to. We thought ourselves (Mr. Leigh and myself) that it would level to about 15 feet. When I prepared the plans in October, 1895, I did not contemplate the erection of a retaining wall on the Kennedy Road site. If Mr. Belilios had taken a portion of the lot it would have been necessary to erect a retaining wall as there would be no room for sloping. I cannot remember that anything was said to me about the synagogue being at such a level as to prevent people travelling by the tramway looking into it. The idea is an absurdity, because on the south side of the lot the tramway is about 50 feet above the road and we could not have raised the ground 60 feet. The tramway is about 15 feet above the road at the northern boundary of the lot. The site must be commanded by the tramway and we intended to line the boundary near the tramway with thick bamboos. I attended the meeting on the 15th March in order to effect a peaceful settlement of the dispute between Mr. Belilios and the other trustees by giving up what I considered was part of our rights.

Mr. Pollock was proceeding to cross-examine the witness as to what he meant by the term "rights," when Mr. Francis interrupted with a remark.

Mr. Pollock—I must really object to my friend interrupting. His conduct in this case has been most reprehensible.

His Lordship—He has been very good to-day, Mr. Pollock.

Mr. Pollock—What he said yesterday was most scandalous; there is no other word for it—absolutely scandalous.

His Lordship—He must not interrupt. I quite agree with you.

Mr. Francis—The newspapers have been complaining that there is no fun in the Court.

Mr. Pollock—My friend's idea of fun seems to be absolute rudeness.

His Lordship—As the French say, the incident is closed, Mr. Pollock.

Mr. Pollock—It is all very well to say it is closed. I do not think it is.

Witness's cross-examination was then proceeded with. He said he would withdraw his last remark about the rights of the case.

Witness was being questioned about the plans when His Lordship said—The remark I made yesterday was only in fun; I suppose you did not take it to heart?

Witness—I have not seen it, my Lord. (Laughter.)

Witness was further cross-examined on points relating to the plans.

The Court adjourned.

17th December.

The cross-examination of Mr. Orange was resumed by Mr. Pollock, who asked various questions in reference to the plans.

Mr. A. J. David said—I am a member of the firm of S. J. David & Co., and one of the plaintiffs in this case. I have been a resident in Hongkong about ten or eleven years and am a member of the Jewish community here. I was concerned in the efforts made by Mr. J. S. Moses in 1891 to get a site for the new synagogue. I think the site was lot 1,381. I also remember the application made in 1893. I think it was for the same site, but I cannot recollect by whom it was made. Mr. D. R. Sassoon, Mr. Belilios, and myself were appointed the trustees by the Jewish community. Mr. Ezekiel was likewise appointed because he was the manager of the firm of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co. and it was understood that the managing partner of the firm should be appointed as one of the trustees. Up to that time Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co. had been managing the affairs of the synagogue. I do not specifically remember if Mr. Belilios saw the plans, but they were laid on the table at the

meeting of the 14th March. I was not at first in favour of the proposed site for the synagogue, but I changed my mind in the latter part of last year, as, after comparing several other sites, I came to the conclusion that the one chosen was the best that could be obtained. Mr. D. R. Sassoon was likewise not in favour of the site. He did not, however, actively oppose it. I remember the correspondence between the trustees and Mr. J. E. Sassoon. Those letters were read by me before I signed them; in fact, we all approved of the draft before we signed them. I remember being shown the memorandum from Mr. Moses to Mr. Silas concerning the application for lot 1,381. I did not attend the auction sale of that lot when it was put up. I was not aware that a little after the sale, Mr. Belilios had bought two little lots just above 1,381. I do not think Mr. Belilios ever told me what he intended to do with the two upper lots. A part from what was said at the meeting, I remember Mr. Danby once told me Mr. Belilios intended to build some houses somewhere about there, but he did not make any mention of lot 1,381 in connection with those houses. Mr. Danby did not speak of an approach to those houses through 1,381. I think Mr. Belilios ceased to be one of the trustees some time in January of this year. The cause of his giving up the trusteeship was that he would not have a tablet put up in the synagogue stating that it was given by Mr. Sassoon and his brothers, who were the heads of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. There was a meeting held for the purpose of discussing the question of the erection of the tablet. Mr. Belilios stood alone in his opposition. I think we had another meeting to discuss the same question. At neither of those meetings was any mention made about the division of 1,381. Mr. Belilios objected to the erection of the tablet because he thought that the synagogue and the money were the property of the community and not of the Sassoons. All the old papers of the synagogue were produced at one of the meetings to enable the trustees to arrive at a decision on that point. I remember being shown the letter from Mr. Belilios to the trustees dated the 8th March asking when they proposed to take over the site. I likewise remember the reply of the trustees signed by Mr. Raymond. That gentleman signed the letter because he had taken the place of Mr. Ezekiel in the firm of E. D. Sassoon & Co. and was therefore entitled to become one of the trustees of the synagogue. I was not aware before the receipt of Mr. Belilios's letter to the trustees on the subject that the community was only to receive a portion of the site. The question of the apportionment of the lot had never been raised or discussed before the receipt of that letter. It had never been suggested directly or indirectly that Mr. Belilios wanted any portion of that lot. I remember my reply to Mr. Belilios stating that I wanted the whole of the lot, Mr. Belilios's answer, and the trustees' letter signed by Mr. Sassoon. Mr. Sassoon was acting in perfect concord with the other trustees when he wrote that last letter. So far as I am concerned I think his expression of surprise at Mr. Belilios wanting a portion of the ground was genuine. Nothing ever occurred to cause me to recognise the possibility of Mr. Belilios wanting a portion of the ground. I heard nothing whatever about his intention of getting a portion of the ground.

The witness was then cross-examined.

In answer to his Lordship witness said that at the meeting of the 15th March he remembered Mr. Raymond saying that they would not stand Mr. Belilios's nonsense or humbug, or something like that.

His Lordship—Did any peacemakers come between the parties and try to save a long litigation in this matter?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Francis said that he and his friend had agreed that there was no use in commencing the examination of another witness that afternoon. Would his Lordship adjourn the case until Tuesday week, which would carry them over the Sessions and the holidays? So far as counsel could see there would be three clear days for them that week.

After some discussion his Lordship agreed to adjourn the further hearing until next

Thursday, provided the Sessions were over by that time; and the evidence could then be concluded and the case remanded for the hearing of arguments on the following Tuesday.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE BURD STREET ROBBERY AND MURDER.

18th December.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. M. Goodman) said there were four cases to be tried at the Sessions, and three of them would probably be disposed of that day. It would probably be convenient to fix the murder case for Monday.

Mr. Robinson, who appears for the defence for two of the prisoners, suggested Tuesday for the trial. The depositions had not yet reached him, and he did not think there would be sufficient time between that day and Monday to prepare his case, as there were from twenty to thirty witnesses.

His Lordship said it was rather short notice. There had been some trouble in copying the depositions, but it would be inconvenient to delay the case till Tuesday.

Mr. Pollock, who also defends, said Monday would suit him.

The case was fixed for this morning, at ten o'clock.

RETURNING FROM BANISHMENT.

Cheung Li, alias Cheung I, was charged with returning from banishment, having been banished for five years on 5th October last.

When the indictment was being read over the Registrar (Mr. Kyshe) said the man's alias ought to be given each time his name was mentioned in the indictment.

The Attorney-General—I do not think it is necessary to repeat the alias each time.

The Registrar—I think it is.

The Cantonese interpreter who read over the charge intimated that the prisoner did not understand that dialect.

The Attorney-General said he was in a position to prove that the prisoner could speak Cantonese perfectly well, but he had put every obstacle in the way of the authorities.

The Hakka interpreter having read over the charge, prisoner pleaded guilty. He said he had not committed any crime since he returned to the colony.

The Attorney-General remarked that prisoner's statement was not true. It was because he was arrested for having committed a crime that he was discovered to be in the colony.

His Lordship said the prisoner was banished on the 5th October, and about five weeks afterwards he was in the colony again. His Lordship had no doubt the terms of the Banishment Order were explained to him. The laws of the colony gave the right to the Governor in Council to keep out dangerous characters, and if these dangerous characters returned they ought to be punished. If the prisoner had pleaded guilty when before the Magistrate the case could have been dealt with by the Magistrate. Prisoner had chosen to deny that he had been banished, and he was brought to the Supreme Court. He must undergo the maximum sentence of one year's imprisonment, with hard labour.

WELL MERITED PUNISHMENT.

A Mahomedan named Abdoolah was charged with committing an abominable crime.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. M. Goodman), instructed by Mr. Denny (Crown Solicitor), appeared for the prosecution.

The following jurors were empaneled:—Messrs. Charles Perkins, M. M. Mehta, J. Goodchild, E. J. Main, H. C. Sparrow, Hung Chuk Man, and Tam Tsz Kong.

The prisoner, who said he would rather eat pork than commit such an offence, was found guilty. He was sent to gaol for ten years with hard labour.

A LUNATIC.

Lo Man was charged with attempting to murder his sister-in-law in a sampan on the 30th September last.

Medical evidence was given to show that the prisoner was insane and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

His Lordship committed the prisoner to gaol pending H.E. the Governor's orders. The Court then adjourned.

20th December.

U Meng, Wong Cheung, Wong Shek Ki, and Wong Sun were charged with the murder of a man in Burd Street on the 25th November.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. M. Goodman), instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny (Crown Solicitor), appeared for the prosecution. Mr. E. Robinson defended the first, second, and fourth prisoners, and Mr. H. E. Pollock defended the third prisoner.

The jurymen were—Messrs. L. Suidter, J. McKie, J. Lysaught, A. H. M. da Silva, A. S. Gubbay, F. A. de Carvalho, W. H. Day.

The Attorney-General, in explaining the facts of the case, said that on the 15th November a medicine shop at 27, Burd Street, was the scene of one of those armed gang robberies with which, in former days, the inhabitants of Hongkong were only too familiar. Somehow the robbers, five in number, learned that there was a considerable sum of money on the premises. About nine o'clock in the evening a man, who was a sort of advance agent of the gang, entered the shop and, with the object of seeing that the scene of action was all clear, bought twenty cents' worth of oil. Immediately afterwards, and just as the shop had been closed, five men armed with revolvers entered. One man acted as guard at the door and the others terrorized the inmates by producing their revolvers, compelling two foks, who had just gone to sleep, and the accountant to keep silence. The accountant was forced to give up the key of the safe and the robbers then ransacked the place, their booty being valued at \$107, and consisting of bank notes, a diamond ring, and a silver watch and chain.

While they were ransacking the premises the master of the shop, who had not been noticed, took off his boots and stealthily crept up a flight of stairs leading to a window which communicated with another house. He met a private watchman and a district watchman, both of whom blew their whistles. The robbers were alarmed and they bolted out of the shop. A district watchman saw them and he pursued them along Burd Street. One or two of the men, doubtless with the intention of killing the watchman, fired two revolver shots. The watchman was not injured, but a foki who was in the street was struck by one of the bullets and killed, and the robbers then ran into Hillier Street and were lost sight of. The police were made acquainted with the crime and a search was instituted in some houses in Kwai Wa Lane. In the eleventh house searched the first, second, and fourth prisoners were found together in a room and they were at once arrested, while the third prisoner was arrested later. Upon the first prisoner was found the silver watch and chain which were stolen from 27, Burd Street, so that it was quite clear that unless the man could satisfy the jury why he was in possession of property recently stolen he was a thief, and if he was a thief he was one of the armed gang and therefore one of the murderers. His Lordship would no doubt tell the jury that the law was that if one of five armed men killed a man in the course of a robbery in order to facilitate escape all were equally guilty. Of course if the men had on leaving the shop taken separate routes and one of them had fired the fatal shot only that man would be guilty of murder, but in this case the men were all together and consequently were equally guilty.

Evidence was then called.

The case had not concluded when the Court adjourned.

The Germans had agreed to evacuate Kiaochow forthwith, without insisting on being given a permanent coaling-station, if, as was at one time understood they did, the Chinese agreed to the reparation that Germany demanded. Complications, however, have now arisen which, it is feared, threaten to postpone indefinitely the German evacuation. The Chinese seem not to have realised the advisability of agreeing with their adversary quickly while they had the opportunity.—N. C. Daily News.

SCANDALOUS DELAY AT THE SUPREME COURT.

What his Lordship the Chief Justice characterized as a most scandalous delay occurred at the Supreme Court on 18th Dec. One of the prisoners committed for trial was a madman who was charged with attempted murder, and although instructions were given for the man to be brought to the court at ten o'clock in the morning he did not arrive until after eleven o'clock, so one hour of valuable time was completely thrown away owing to some stupid blunder on the part of some person or persons at present unknown. When the case was called on the Attorney-General explained that the prisoner had not yet arrived, but he had been telephoned for and would arrive in about five minutes. Would his Lordship mind waiting, as the witnesses, Dr. Atkinson and Dr. Thomson, were very busy and were anxious to get away? His Lordship did not object to waiting.

Five minutes elapsed and there was no sign of the prisoner. He was being brought in a ricksha and would not be very long, the Attorney-General said. Ten minutes passed and things were no farther advanced. The Court became impatient. The witnesses, the jury, the public, to say nothing of all the officials, were wasting their time, and the Court was very cold.

"Did I understand you to say the police had telephoned for the prisoner, Mr. Attorney?" asked his Lordship.

"I was told so, my Lord," replied Mr. Attorney.

Things looked more serious. A sergeant of police left the court, presumably to telephone again. The Deputy Registrar followed, perhaps to see that the telephone message was correctly sent. The Deputy Superintendent of Police also went out to facilitate matters, while the Crown Solicitor and one of the doctors followed at short intervals to see what on earth could be the cause of the delay. It was probably everybody's duty to get the prisoner down to the court and consequently it was nobody's duty.

The Attorney-General entered into an explanation. The prisoner, he said, was confined in Victoria Goal up to Friday last, when he was removed to the Lunatic Asylum. He (the Attorney-General) had at once on receiving this intimation communicated with the Captain Superintendent of Police explaining the procedure adopted in such cases and saying that the prisoner and the witnesses must be at the court at ten o'clock on Saturday morning. He supposed the police had thought the doctors would bring the prisoner to the court, and hence the delay. But the prisoner had been telephoned for and it certainly ought not to take more than ten minutes to bring him in a ricksha.

There was more hurrying to and from the court and a general bustling of officials, while the poor jurors looked as docile as they could under the circumstances and no doubt thought there might be more than one lunatic concerned in the case.

At eleven o'clock the Judge's patience was exhausted.

"Mr. Attorney," he said, "enquire whose fault it is that the prisoner is not here, and bring it to the notice of the Governor. It seems to me that the delay is most scandalous."

The Attorney-General again explained what he had himself done to secure the prisoner's attendance.

"I am not blaming you, Mr. Attorney," remarked his Lordship. "Bring the matter to the notice of the Governor, because somebody is to blame. We will go on with the next case."

The Attorney-General hinted that perhaps the prisoner was violent, or something of that sort.

The next case was then proceeded with and just as the jury had been sworn the lunatic arrived. It was then six minutes past eleven o'clock, but his Lordship declined to break into the case which had been commenced and the prisoner was kept handcuffed in the other court for more than two hours.

As his Lordship at one point remarked, this is not the first time the Court has been inconvenienced and we hope the measures resorted to by his Lordship will prevent such a scandalous delay from again taking place.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on 16th December. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer) presided, and there were also present—Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

PLAQUE IN BOMBAY.

The number of cases of bubonic plague in Bombay from the 3rd to the 16th November was 153 and the number of deaths 101.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 4th December the death rate was 31, as against 22.9 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended the 27th November the rate was 20.9, as against 21.3.

WHAT IS A BAKEHOUSE?

The following letter from the Medical Officer of Health was read:—

December 2nd, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to request the decision of the Board upon the point as to whether premises in which Chinese cakes are prepared and baked for sale should be held to fall within the meaning of the term "bakehouse" and should be required to comply with the by-laws made by the Board under sub-section 10 of Section 13 of Ordinance 24 of 1897.

Personally I am of the opinion that such premises should be registered and required to comply with the aforesaid by-laws, but as there appears to be some doubt upon the subject, I should be glad to have the opinion of the Board.—I have the honour, &c.,

FRANCIS W. CLARK,
Medical Officer of Health.

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. N. J. EDE—I should say that the word bake-house includes premises such as those in question, but it will be well to make sure of our ground on this point.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I should like to see any previous papers on this subject. On the face of it a place where bread or cakes are baked is a bakehouse.

The SECRETARY—At the time the original Bakehouse by-laws were made the point was considered, but no clear and definite decision was arrived at. It would seem clear enough that if bread is baked for sale and sold, that the premises in which such bread is baked is a bakehouse within the meaning of the Health Ordinance and the by-laws made thereunder.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH moved that the word "bakehouse" be held by the Board to include all premises in which bread, cakes, or other similar articles are cooked and exposed for sale for human food.

The PRESIDENT seconded.
Carried.

THE KOWLOON CATTLE DEPOT CLOSED.

The following report from the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon advising the closing temporarily of the Cattle Depot at Kowloon was read:—

8th December, 1897.

Sir,—In order to have the meat supply of the colony under my immediate supervision during the epidemic of foot and mouth disease, I think it is advisable to close the Kowloon Cattle Depot for a time, and no cattle can then be killed at Kowloon.

The small quantity of beef required for the Kowloon markets can easily be taken across from Kennedy Town, and will cause little or no inconvenience to the butchers on that side of the harbour.

Subject to the approval of the Board I have given instructions that no new cattle are to be admitted into that depot, and when those animals housed therein at the present time are killed off, the place can be closed.—I have the honour to be, Sir,

J. VIVIAN LADDS,
Colonial Veterinary Surgeon.

The following minutes were appended:—

The PRESIDENT—I think the course advised by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon is on the whole a wise one. There will not be any great inconvenience to the butchers in Kowloon. It

does not interfere with the slaughter of sheep, goats, and swine at the Kowloon slaughterhouse.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I approve.

Mr. EDE—Can the proposal be effectively carried out? The extra cost of bringing the cattle across to Kennedy Town and the carcasses back to Kowloon will probably tempt the Kowloon butchers to try to evade the rule.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I approve. The police should be warned, as it may lead to illicit slaughtering on the hill-sides.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I do not approve. The police cannot possibly prevent all illegal slaughtering at Kowloon and I think the last state will be worse than the first.

In the discussion which ensued the SECRETARY said that if the depot was closed it would simply be a question of taking the carcasses over to Kowloon instead of the live animal, so there would be no trouble in that respect. He did not think it was likely there would be any slaughtering on the hill-sides.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH moved that the depot be closed for a fortnight to see how things would turn out.

The PRESIDENT seconded.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until Thursday week.

HONGKONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Benevolent Society was held on 17th Dec., at noon, at the City Hall. Mr. T. Jackson presided and there was a good attendance of ladies.

The CHAIRMAN, after reading the notice convening the meeting and the report and accounts, remarked on the good work the Society was doing and the devotion of the ladies to their, at times, disagreeable task. Occasionally they were visited by impostors and it was only the strictest sense of duty that led them to say no in such cases. As time went on the necessity for the Society would be more marked, as more foreigners would be attracted to the place and become stranded. They were doubtless sent here by their friends, who said, "Go to Hongkong and you will find work," but on arriving here the poor people found they had been sent on a fool's errand. Anything of that kind was to be most seriously deprecated. The Society very often heard of people wishing to get their passage money to another place, and when they were asked what means they had of getting on in the world in nine cases out of ten they could not give a satisfactory answer. The Society had accomplished a most useful work in dealing with many deserving cases and they were all indebted to the ladies for the trouble they had taken in affording relief. The Chairman then proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Rev. R. F. COBBOLD seconded.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP said that he was deeply grateful to Providence for being able to attend the meeting of the Hongkong Benevolent Society. He trusted that the Vagrancy Ordinance would save the Society from the troublesome cases to which the Chairman had alluded and enable them with more satisfaction to pick out the real deserving cases for which this Society had been established. He thought they might feel there was a reflex influence in the work of the Association. It was not only beneficial to the recipients of its bounty, but it had a blessed influence on all who administered the bounty and attended to the working. It was a part and parcel of that altruistic self-sacrificing care for others which was a distinctive characteristic of the best of our countrymen and of other nationalities in all parts of the world. The effects of the working of the Association could be seen elsewhere. Only on Thursday he was reading of the meeting of Chinese ladies in Shanghai for promoting female education. Was not that a result of the good example of the European ladies in Shanghai who had been for years past working for the relief of the poor from the torture of foot-binding? It was the example and influence of foreign ladies amongst the natives, as such example had a sanctifying influence on the

women of our own native land. In Hongkong there was little scope for the efforts of the ladies. Children for the most part were sent away and with them went a thousand thoughts and cares of mothers for their families. In regard to the housewife's duties, the *ménage* was in a great degree handed over to the trusty house-boy, and the cases of sickness and poverty amongst foreigners were very few. There were in Hongkong no coal and blanket clubs, no Harvest Homes, no seaside excursions for school children, no autumnal fruit festivals, and no scope in the guardianship of the poor or the working of School Boards as they had at home. Indeed, there was very little for the ladies to do in Hongkong, but we could rejoice in the fact that many of them devoted some of their time to the noble work of charity and we could be thankful that we had a Benevolent Society in our midst. When he (Mr. Sharp) lay in Montreal two months ago almost a skeleton and so weak that he could not sit up in bed he thought he was going to die, and looked back upon the past and thought of how much strength and energy he had devoted to business and pleasure as compared with the little he had devoted to the glory of God and the benefit of his fellow men. He prayed to God to be forgiven and he felt grateful that he had been spared.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the re-election of Mrs. May, Mrs. Forbes, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Master, and Mrs. Siebs on the Committee.

Dr. THOMSON seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee consisted of the above-named ladies and Mrs. Ritchie, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Goodman, Mrs. Dowler, Mrs. Thomson, and Mrs. Bell Irving.

On the motion of the Chairman a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Miss Anderson for the time she had devoted as President of the Society, and to Mrs. Black and Mrs. Michaelson, who had retired from the Committee, for the great interest they had taken in the welfare of the Society.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

The eighth annual report is as follows:—

The Committee of the Hongkong Benevolent Society beg to submit to members and friends a report of the work effected during the year. There were forty applications for relief, all of which were carefully investigated, with the result that assistance was rendered in thirty-two instances. Twelve applicants were assisted to other parts of the world where they had friends or opportunities of employment. Fifteen applicants have been in receipt of relief of a more or less permanent nature, and five children are being educated and supported by the Society. In other cases temporary relief has been granted according to their merits. Our sincere thanks due to the Managers of the many Steamship Companies who have so liberally assisted us. We have to thank, too, Mr. Grace and the ladies and gentlemen who so kindly assisted at the concert given in aid of the Society's funds, as also Colonel Gordon and the Officers of the West Yorkshire Regiment, who were good enough to give the services of their Band on that occasion. During the year Mrs. Hawkins returned to the colony and resumed her post of President of the Society, which during her absence had been filled by Miss Anderson, to whom the best thanks of the Society are due. The following ladies retire in rotation from the Committee:—Mrs. Siebs, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Master, but offer themselves for re-election.

ALARMING ATTACK ON HAIPHONG.

ONE EUROPEAN KILLED AND MUTILATED.

Information was received on the 20th Dec. by the steamer *Mathilde* of a most outrageous attack on Haiphong by between four and five hundred bandits. Only rather meagre details have as yet reached Hongkong, as the attack was not made until the 15th inst., a few hours before the *Mathilde* left the port. This much is certain, that a number of residences were set fire to and Mr. E. Gauthier, a bookkeeper in the employ of Messrs. A. R. Marty, was killed in a most ruffianly manner and afterwards his body

was terribly mutilated. The gang landed in four separate parts of the town and at once proceeded to set fire to a large number of houses, which were completely destroyed. Mr. Gauthier was killed by a blow with a *coupe-coupe*, which is an Annamite sword, and not content with merely taking away his life the murderous gang cut off his nose and left ear, hacked his arms and legs, and also struck his lifeless body with a pick-axe. The scene of this brutal murder was, as may be imagined, most sickening. In various parts of the town there are ugly traces of the work of the incendiaries, the road leading to the cemetery being simply a mass of burnt ruins. The funeral of Mr. Gauthier was to have taken place on the 17th inst. Precise information as to the exact motives of the gang and of how the attack was quelled has not yet come to hand.

EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURE WITH SMUGGLERS.

THREE DAYS WITHOUT FOOD.

The launch *Fi Wan*, which had been previously reported as missing, arrived in the harbour on Sunday, 19th December, in tow of another launch. The crew have given an account of a most startling adventure they had with a number of smugglers. On Wednesday, 15th Dec., some men went to the Chi Wo Company's wharf on the Praya and engaged the launch *Fi Wan* for the purpose of towing a junk laden, as they said, with coal from Laichikok to Aberdeen. The launch was despatched in charge of a pilot, the master, and four men, while the men who had engaged her of course went with her. When Laichikok was reached a tow rope was made fast to a junk which, as far as outward appearances went, was heavily laden with coal, and the launch was then steered in the direction of Aberdeen. When nearing Green Island the crew were suddenly alarmed by the men simultaneously drawing their revolvers and ordering all the crew below. The crew could do nothing but obey this peremptory order, and they were then imprisoned, as the hatch was firmly nailed down. The launch proceeded on its way and, as was afterwards proved, was taken to Deep Bay, Castle Peak. When the launch stopped the men below heard a great commotion on board the junk as if unloading operations were going on. This continued with occasional quiet intervals until Saturday morning, when, no further noises being heard, the imprisoned crew concluded that the desperadoes had left the scene. The hatchway was burst open and one of the men went ashore and made his way to Hongkong, where he arrived on Saturday afternoon. He at once informed the launch owners of the extraordinary adventure of himself and the other members of the crew, and another launch was thereupon despatched to Deep Bay. It was night time when the missing launch was reached and as it was thought that the gang might still be in the vicinity it was deemed advisable to lay quiet until dawn. On Sunday morning the launch was boarded and then brought safely back to Hongkong. It is inferred that the junk really contained fire-arms or dynamite and that the coal was only a misleading top dressing. Whatever the illicit cargo was it is certain that the smugglers are determined characters, for they kept their captives entirely without food during the whole time and also deprived them of any means whereby they could see what transpired. The Customs officials, too, were apparently completely deceived as to the nature of the cargo on the junk, or they failed in the darkness to notice the launch and junk passing the station. It is to be hoped that the police will soon succeed in effecting a capture of the whole gang. It should be added that all the coal was taken out of the launch and the engines were damaged, slightly however, but sufficient to render them unworkable.

A fire broke out in the scutching room of the Alpha Farm Cotton Mill at Shanghai at about 11 o'clock on the night of the 15th December. The mill is fortunately fitted with a complete installation of Grinnell Sprinklers, fourteen of which opened automatically and extinguished the fire in something less than half-an-hour. The damage done was trifling.

PLAGUE ON THE MAIL STEAMER.

THE "THAMES" LANDS A CASE AT PENANG.
[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
Singapore, 17th December.

The P. & O. steamer *Thames* arrived at Penang to-day and landed a case of plague.

The passengers were not allowed to land nor cargo to be discharged.

[The *Thames* is from Bombay and is bringing on the English Mail of the 26th November, having connected at Colombo with the *Himalaya*.]

THE STRAITS CHINAMAN IM- PRISONED AT AMOY.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
Singapore, 16th December.

The Minister at Peking, replying to the Governor of the Straits Settlements with reference to the case of Khun Yiong, the Singapore Chinaman imprisoned at Amoy, says that Khun Yiong holds land at Amoy, has a wife there, and passes as a Chinese subject.

Before the above telegram was received the following was in type:—

We learn that the Governor of the Straits Settlements has telegraphed to the home Government in reference to the case of Khun Yiong, the Straits Chinaman imprisoned at Amoy, whom the British Consul there has, by direction of the Minister, declined to recognise as a British subject. The passport issued to Khun Yiong by the Governor states that he is a British subject born in Singapore and that his father and mother were both British subjects. In the usual form it requests "in the name of Her Britannic Majesty all those whom it may concern to allow O Khun Yiong (British subject), travelling in China, to pass freely and to afford him every assistance and protection of which he may stand in need." This passport the Legation and Consular officials decline to recognise as establishing the man's right to protection and the Taotai of Amoy has been informed by the Consul that he is not a British subject, although he was registered at the Consulate as such on the 1st October, 1897.

The suit against Khun Yiong has been instituted by Messrs. Pasdag & Co., in connection with the charter of a steamer. We understand the defendant claims that he is not a member of the Pochun H. ng, the firm chartering the steamer, but that another man of the same name, who is at large and unmolested, is the head. The Pochun firm is said to be registered at the Consulate. Before news reached Khun Yiong at Singapore of the sequestration of his property, which was what brought him to Amoy, a relation of his was arrested and is still detained in gaol. It is said that large sums of money are being extorted from Khun Yiong.

The details of the case are at present of small importance as compared with the broad question of principle involved, namely, whether Khun Yiong, being a British subject, is entitled to have the case tried by his own Consul, or whether he has forfeited that right owing to failure to register himself before the suit against him was commenced.

HOW HONGKONG WAS NOT CAPTURED.

It was late in the spring of the year 1900 that I accompanied my regiment down from Vladivostok in one of the Russian transports which conveyed our forces to Mirs Bay. I was at that time but a captain in an infantry regiment, though I have, by combined good luck and influence, since blossomed into Military Governor of one of our Chinese provinces. It was through distinguishing myself in the attack on Hongkong and our masterly retreat overland northward, that I became acquainted with Prince —, one of the commanders of that expedition, and to him I am largely indebted for my present position and influence.

However, to return to my theme. "How Hongkong was not Captured." I must first tell you that our plans had been long previously prepared and every precaution taken against failure. The British have to thank their good luck more than their good management that

that important fortress is still in their hands, for if neglect and stupidity, on their part, could have their due, Hongkong must certainly have been ours and Mirs Bay with it. You bet! As the Americans say!

I must, however, give these British bulldogs their due; they fought like very devils against overwhelming odds; and the Indian troops, too, fought well. The garrison simply did wonders, but it was the return of their fleet which saved them from final defeat.

Our forces numbered 10,000 men, carried in six transports, and we had in addition a fleet of war-ships, co-operating, numbering eight ships, including two battle-ships. There were also a fleet of torpedo boats and two torpedo destroyers. The French force co-operating with us numbered 10,000 men, half of these being Annamite troops. Their fleet of war-vessels was of about the same strength as ours.

Our forces were considered to be more than sufficient for the task, but having made sure of Hongkong we had then to undertake the capture of Singapore, and we had allowed for heavy losses in capturing Hongkong and a garrison for Hongkong after it was taken, which would reduce the available force for the capture of Singapore to about half the number employed against the former place.

It must here be mentioned that the Chinese were cognisant of the whole plan, they having been bought over to lend all assistance in their power by a promise that Hongkong should be handed over to them for a naval station in lieu of Port Arthur, a promise which there was no intention whatever of fulfilling but good enough to fool them with for the time being. We were to retain Hongkong and the French were to have Singapore, "if it suited us," you understand.

On the night of the 9th May all our ships were to enter Tolo Harbour, Mirs Bay, having the previous day rendezvoused at a point to the S.E. of the Pescadores well out of the track of all vessels. The attack was to begin on the night of the 10th, after having communicated overland with the French forces, which were to enter and take possession of the Lantau Channel—entering from the direction of Macao—likewise, on the night of the 9th May.

The Chinese undertook to have an ample supply of junks and boats both at Lantau and in Mirs Bay for the landing of our men and guns. They also undertook to have a Canton gunboat squadron at our service in Mirs Bay, together with all their torpedo boats, and we were authorized to seize the two Customs cruisers which we would find at anchor in Bias Bay and Mirs Bay together with any Customs launches which might be about. The Chinese likewise undertook to furnish provisions for the forces, on due payment for same. They were quite jubilant about getting Hongkong into their possession again and onsting the hated Fan-kwai. They benignly considered us dutiful subjects of His Celestial Emperorship, but doubtless meant to foil us, as they thought, as we were in reality going to foil them.

Towards the end of April, by pre-arrangement, serious troubles broke out in the neighbourhood of Tientsin. Mobs attacked foreigners off the settlements, and then repeated attacks were made, night after night, on the settlements themselves, and incendiary fires broke out from time to time. This was the signal for us to send a strong force of troops both to Peking and Tientsin, a simple matter now that the railway was completed. Simultaneously troubles broke out at Seoul, Korea, and we sent further troops there.

By the 1st or 2nd May all the British fleet had gathered in the Gulf of Pechili with the exception of the few ships left to police Hongkong and the Treaty Ports. Now was our time! The troopships for the South had crept, one by one, out of Vladivostok, almost unnoticed; if anyone did notice it was believed that they were bound for the Gulf of Pechili. The telegraph wires were, as far as the British fleet was concerned, practically cut, they were kept well occupied by bogus riots, etc, while our ships sped on their way south. None but fast ships were employed on this mission, both transports and fighting ships.

On the night of the 9th May all our ships were snug in Tolo Harbour and on the morning of the 10th our engineers were busy placing the guns on the gun platforms, which

had been constructed previously by the Chinese, working under the direction of an eminent Russian engineer, disguised as a Chinaman. Had any curious Englishman put in an appearance when they were at work on this weeks before he would have been informed that they were peasantry levelling ground for cultivation and he would have gone off quite satisfied; however, none came to trouble them, hence they worked on unmolested and prepared things for us, and the guns had only to be put in place to make forts. The torpedoes and sub-marine mines were, also, soon laid.

By the evening of the 10th our forces were all landed, the entrance to Tolo Harbour was fortified, Russian officers and crews were on board the Chinese torpedo-boats and laying at the entrance of the harbour, prepared for action. A force of 1,000 men was in possession of each of the two principal passes over the Kowloon hills and we had had satisfactory information that the French preparations had equally succeeded and that they had landed in force on the mainland opposite Mahwan (Cupsuimoon) besides holding Mahwan (Cupsuimoon) itself. All the Canton river-steamers had fallen into their hands and they had cut the southern telegraph cables but were in communication themselves with the south through the Chinese lines.

During the night of the 10th a strong force from our side, Mirs Bay, together with another strong force from the French base, in the Lantao Channel, made a series of attacks on Stonecutters Island, but were repeatedly repulsed.

On the morning of the 11th the French opened fire on the shipping in Hongkong and on the town from Mahwan (Cupsuimoon). The fort at West Point returned the fire, as did also the few gunboats in the harbour. The shipping soon moved out of range and so the fire was continued on the town and the West Point fort. The shells falling in the town caused several conflagrations.

On our part the 11th was spent in massing our troops in the two passes of the Kowloon hills, out of gun-fire, ready to descend in force during the night, under the direction of guides, and take possession of the Kowloon Peninsula. Shortly after dusk our troops were in motion and descended, in heavy columns, the southern slopes of the hills. As we proceeded detachments of troops, with field guns, occupied all the points of vantage. The French, on their side, had occupied Chin-wan, in force, there throwing out small detachments to open up communications with our forces at our base in Mirs Bay. The main body of the French moved on along the shore, opposite Stonecutter's Island, arriving at Kowloon Peninsula in time for the general advance with our troops. Before daylight the peninsula and all forts were in our hands. I will not give details of the fighting; suffice it to say that the British troops, exhausted with the previous day's work, were taken completely by surprise and were driven out at the point of the bayonet, for we did no firing, being anxious not to arouse and alarm the wearied British sentries.

When, with daylight on the 12th, the forts on Stonecutter's Island and in Hongkong realized what had happened, they opened a very heavy fire on us, in which they were ably supported by the gunboats in harbour. The French and our ships now came into action and keeping well out of range managed to draw the fire off on themselves. The British gunners, however, soon discovered that they were wasting shot and shell and then redirected their fire on us.

And now comes the tale of our defeat, for on the morning of the 13th—the night of the 12th being given up to rest both on our own part and on the part of the British, both we and they being exhausted with the continuous work of the 10th, 11th, and 12th—to our dismay we saw a British fleet in harbour and discovered that our own ships had, as arranged, should by mischance, as was now the case, the British fleet turn up before we had taken the island, steamed off, leaving us to retreat overland. As they were all fast ships they got safely away and were not even chased by the British fleet, which had by some means got wind of what was going on and was bent only on succouring the beleaguered garrison of Hongkong.

During the 13th we had to stand the continued bombardment by the British warships, but found considerable shelter at various points, so did not lose so heavily as might have been expected. Our General was an able man, as was also the French General, and the retreat was effected by sending off small detachments. The main body repulsed several sorties from the British ships. On the night of the 13th all our troops were withdrawn from the southern side of the Kowloon hills and by daylight next morning the united French and Russian forces were on the march for Canton. The rear-guard held the enemy well in check by holding the passes in the hills till the main-body was quite clear of the neighbourhood, and then, evacuating at nightfall, marched after the main-body all night.

The Chinese, now, finding that we were defeated, so far as our attack on Hongkong was concerned, thought to turncoat and join the British against us, but little they dreamt, when they began to give trouble, how completely they were in our power. The first sign of treachery on their part was that the guides no longer knew their way; the next was that supplies failed to come in as before. The remedy was a simple one in each case. A guide hung up to a tree refreshed the memories of the others, and when we had seized a few of the leading officials and inhabitants of the districts we passed through, and flogged them, with a promise of more if supplies were not forthcoming, we soon had more provisions than we knew what to do with. The same course was followed during the whole of the retreat, with complete success. The leading officials were always collared, and had a flogging as a hint of what would follow any failure on their part to supply the needful and give us a peaceful passage. The flogging was omitted where it was found unnecessary. At Canton the Tartar troops were inclined to show fight, but they were soon surrounded and disarmed, much to the delight of the other inhabitants. The French were left in possession of Canton, as likewise the Bogue Forts. They eventually came to terms with the British, being allowed to take a portion of the provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan, and receiving also Hainan. The British took the rest of the three provinces named, connecting with their Burmese possessions and completely cutting off the French from further expansion of their Eastern possessions. The French likewise gave up all claim to Siam.

As for us, we retreated to Hankow, where we remained in possession, till by arrangement with the British we withdrew from the Yangtse Valley, but took the whole of North China within our dominions. Germany received Fokien and Shantung, and the British further took Chekiang and the Chusan Archipelago.

Thus ended our unsuccessful raid on Hongkong. I have purposely avoided details rendering my story too long, and have not entered into the fighting which took place elsewhere, for the same reason, viz., to curtail narrative and confine myself to a narration of "How Hongkong was not Captured."

You will of course perceive it was that wretched British fleet which spoiled the business.

Though we did not take Hongkong we destroyed the docks and captured and sunk a large number of vessels. Our fleets captured and sunk a large number of merchant vessels.

ZAROWSKI.

GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following report has been received from the Manager at the mines:—

Mount Macdonald
22nd November, 1897.

The Great Eastern Main Shaft has been sunk a further 17 feet, making the total depth from the surface 74 feet, almost all of which, within a few feet, has been timbered also. Although tight, the ground is easier to shoot now and I expect to see the first 100 feet completed by the end of this year.

The Caledonian Main Shaft is now down 54 feet from the surface; the ground here is not quite so hard as before, floors are occasionally met with now, which enable the men to get

down quicker, but taking it altogether this shaft is very hard to sink. We expect, however, much better country after the first 100 feet have been accomplished. The shaft is beginning to be wet, although not to any great extent; it can be easily bailed out.

The Zulu Main Shaft is also getting a little wet, but it can easily be bailed out too. Since my last report, about 14 feet have been sunk, making the total depth from windlass 72 feet. We have broken through the reef, which is dipping south, but we shall not do any driving on it before the 200 feet have been fully sunk. Moreover we shall probably cut another shoot of stone within the next few feet.

I sent two samples for assay to Sydney and the result is as per enclosed certificate as follows:—

Sample of 7lbs. from best part of reef	4 ozs. 9 dwt. Gold per ton
Sample of 7lbs. from poorest part of reef	10 dwt. 15 grs. Silver per ton
Sample of 7lbs. from poorest part of reef	1 oz. 1 dwt. 19 grs. Gold per ton
Sample of 7lbs. from poorest part of reef	5 dwt. 11 grs. Silver per ton

I also sent a sample of about 11lbs. weight for assay to Sydney, coming from Gold Lease 301 (newly acquired lease), the same line of reef as the Zulu. This assay yielded as per enclosed certificate:—

5 ozs. 15 dwt. 23 grs. Gold per ton
11 dwt. 10 grs. Silver per ton

None of the stone sent to Sydney of all three samples showed any free gold. Particular care was taken to this effect and these results show you the value of the mineral in the stone and the importance to erect suitable machinery when the time for crushing arrives.

Prospecting Shaft has been timbered since my last letter and sinking has been resumed yesterday.

As the ground is now safe to work in, we expect to get on with this shaft very quickly. We shall start a second shift here probably on Monday next and as we are on the channel of a reef, we may be able to come upon it soon.

THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their mining manager by steamer Yamashiro Maru:—

I have the honour to report on the above mine as follows:—

Queen Mine.—Main shaft, total depth 333 feet; ground harder than any met with for some distance, but it is underlying, so that we may expect to change shortly.

Prospecting Shaft.—Drive south extended 14 feet, total 27 feet; no change of importance to report.

Battery.—Contractors for taking down, removing, and re-erecting battery are making good progress.

Balmoral Mine.—Nothing new to report. Work being confined to driving True Blue tunnel (two men only), and one party of tributors are getting some nice gold, but the stone is small and the ground very hard.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their mining manager by steamer Yamashiro Maru:—

Mount Macdonald,
26th November, 1897.

I have the honour to report work done since last report as follows:—

Eureka Mine.—Main shaft sunk 8 feet, total below 200 feet level 92 feet, strata passed through moderately hard and difficult to break, timbered 10 feet, total below level 82 feet.

Mining Tenement 18.—Not meeting with anything payable in the drive mentioned in last report, have suspended operations here, sufficient work having been done to secure a lease of the ground, which will be amalgamated with the other portions of the property and worked from the main shaft.

G. L. 105.—Underly shaft total depth 64 feet. Lode Channel 3½ feet wide. Lode at present considerably mixed up with mullock, but doubt-

less it will soon improve, these intrusions being of common occurrence in the best reefs in all districts.

Olivers Battery.—The new battery was started on the 11th instant and went remarkably well for a new plant. Of course there were a few slight alterations to make, bolts to tighten; this is always the case, especially with a heavy head battery, but on the 16th was working splendidly and we looked forward to a continuous and successful run, when suddenly the spur wheel on the cam shaft broke and brought everything to a standstill. The cause of this breakage was a large flaw inside the casting, which it was impossible to discover until after the wheel broke. Another and much heavier and stronger wheel is now on the way and will arrive to-morrow and crushing will be at once resumed.

THE YAH LOONG COTTON SPINNING CO., LIMITED.

The first ordinary meeting of shareholders in this company was held at Shanghai on the 8th December, at the offices of the Russo-Chinese Bank. Mr. J. S. Fearon presided and there were also present:—Messrs. A. Werth, Wang Kiah Zur (Directors), W. A. C. Platt (Legal Adviser), C. W. Wrightson, H. W. Daniel, Collingwood, Wehrung, Rodewald, A-hee, Hung-kee, and Soey Foong.

Mr. C. W. Wrightson having been appointed secretary to the meeting, the Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—this meeting is purely a formal one, and is called to conform with the Hongkong Ordinance, which requires that a meeting shall be held within four months of the formation of the Company. On taking over the mill from Chang Kee we had many difficulties to contend with, especially in the reorganisation of the system of working from the practically Chinese methods that then prevailed. I am glad to say that this difficulty has now been overcome, and everything is running smoothly. As we expected, all of the spinning machinery required extensive overhauling, and this is now being gradually done under the superintendence of a new fitter lately arrived from England. On going into the question of the extension of the mill, it has been found that no addition to the building is necessary, as by a rearrangement of the present machinery and replacing a portion of the ring frames in the upper story, the number of spindles can be increased to about 20,500, at a very moderate outlay. The quality of the yarn we produce, I am pleased to say, is satisfactory and the prices obtained compare favourably with those current for the product of the other mills under foreign management. The result of the first year's working of the company will be known to us by October next, and I therefore propose:—“That the first annual general meeting of the Company should be held in October, 1898, here or in such other place in Shanghai as the Board shall appoint.”

Mr. Wehrung seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the general managers, proposed by Mr. Wehrung.

POLO.

On 16th Dec., before a small but select company of spectators—i.e., those who attend polo not merely for tea and band, etc., but because they like the game, as yesterday was too cold to attract any but the keen ones—the West York. Regt., on the eve of their departure from the colony, tried conclusions with the Club. The teams were represented as follows:—

The West York. Regt.—Capt. Drew (back), Mr. Spencer (3), Mr. Wood (2), Mr. Gordon (1). The Club—Capt. Burney, R.A. (back), Mr. Craigh, H.K. Regt. (3), Mr. Landale (2), Mr. Platt (1). Lt. Colonel The O'Gorman acted as umpire.

The match consisted of two periods of ten minutes each. The first ten minutes was on the whole a bit slow and sticky, although the ground was in excellent order. Some good play was shown by Capt. Drew (who was playing vice Mr. Tew, unfortunately unable to play). Playing back, on two or three occasions he saved some hot attacks by the Club team, but after about four minutes' play Capt. Burney scored the first goal for the Club. This was followed up by a good run down the ground, Burney and

Craigh showing up conspicuously, but Drew, who was playing better than we have ever seen him, again saved, and Wood and Spencer getting well away the latter hit a goal from a very difficult shot at the Stable end. Immediately on restarting Wood got away with the ball and once more landed it between the posts. This was shortly followed by a subsidiary by Landale and another goal by Craigh, the ball having been well centred for him by Burney. The bell then rang, the score being—Club, two goals and one subsidiary; The Regt., two goals.

The second period was much faster and a better game all round, all the players showing better form. Burney (now playing 2) hit a goal, but off-side was given against him. Landale now gave an exhibition of his near-side play, at which he is at times brilliant; but we are inclined to think that he is too fond of it and often takes a near-side stroke when the off-side would pay far better, as it is impossible to put nearly as much force into a stroke on the near-side. Nevertheless, he scored a very fine goal on the near-side. Drew again was well to the fore and mainly assisted Wood in crediting the Regiment with another goal. Landale once more made some very good near-side hits but here certainly the off-side should have been brought into play and we think he would have scored a goal instead of a subsidiary. After some good fast play all round, Burney showing well to the front, Craigh again scored for the Club, which was shortly followed by a good goal from a long shot by Landale. This ended the match, leaving the Club victorious by five goals and three subsidiaries to three goals. Besides those already mentioned Wood played in his usual form and Platt did much better in the second half.

PIGSKIN.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB V. COLTS.

The Club team was unable, in this match, to cope with the Colts, who won on the first innings and established a long lead in their second batting attempt. The Colts were strong in bowling, which was entrusted to the brothers Lammert and Tuohy. The last named is a fastish bowler round the wicket and generally off the wicket, with plenty of flourish in his delivery; he got three wickets for 26 runs, but would have done nothing but for the batsmen stepping away from his deliveries, which were beauties to be either cut or placed to leg. The fielding of the Colts was the chief element in their win—seldom has better fielding been seen on the ground—C. T. Kew at cover especially distinguishing himself. The sooner some of Hongkong's young gentlemen cease to think that membership of a cricket club makes them cricketers, that they have a natural talent for the game and need neither practice nor advice, the better for themselves and the game: Mahomet must go to the mountain for the mountain will not go to Mahomet. If anyone can adequately describe the Club's fielding in the second innings let him do so; even our “journalist” is unequal to the task. R. F. Lammert batted well in both innings for his side, and Tuohy helped to add a useful 24 for the last wicket in the first innings. Brett was on both occasions commendably steady. In the second innings F. H. Kew—who also kept wicket well—and F. Lammert put on 50 runs by hard hitting and had a merry time. For the Club Isaacke played an excellent innings which combined defence with attack; he got in two or three fine off drives. Of the rest Mounsey and Extras were alone able to reach double figures. A strong yearning to get back to the pavilion was displayed and gratified in the case of the majority of the remainder. The bowling figures of the Colts are noticeable, and it is fair to mention that Crawford had bad luck both in not hitting the wicket after beating the batsmen and in having catches missed off him. Appended are the score and analysis:—

HONGKONG COLTS.	
1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
P. Hyrdman, c Rawson, b Robinson	8
R. F. Lammert, c Gascoyne, b Rawson	23
F. H. Kew, l. b. w., b Robinson	0 not out
	40

F. Lammert, b Rawson	4	b Robinson	34
C. T. Kew, b Robinson	3	not out	14
L. A. Rose, b Robinson	1		
A. Uphill, b Rawson	7		
J. Carvalho, b Rawson	8		
L. D'Almada E. Castro, c Robinson, b Rawson	2		
L. E. Brett, not out	3	b Robinson	20
J. Tuohy, c Isaacke b Robinson	15	b Crawford	6
Extras	7	Extras	9

Total 86 Total for 4 wks. 157

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B. Wickets.
Robinson	19	7	33	—	5
Rawson	18	5	42	—	5

Second Innings.

Robinson	17	4	75	—	2
Crawford	17	3	54	—	2
Dalrymple	8	3	19	—	—

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

R. Isaacke, b F. Lammert	20
K. W. Mounsey, c D'Almada, b R. F. Lammert	13
H. Rawson, R.N., b R. F. Lammert	1
Capt. Carey, l. b. w., b R. F. Lammert	0
S. Robinson, l. b. w., b R. F. Lammert	5
F. H. Gascoyne, R.N., b Tuohy	3
D. Dalrymple, R.N., run out	1
A. Anderson, b Tuohy	9
L. S. Crawford, b Tuohy	5
H. Grant Smith, b F. Lammert	0
Ivan Smith, not out	0
Extras	11

Total 68

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B. Wickets.
Tuohy	14	4	26	—	3
R. F. Lammert	10	3	19	—	4
F. Lammert	4.2	—	12	—	2

The Club will play the United Services, beginning on Xmas Day at 2 p.m. and continuing on Boxing Day at 10 a.m. and on Tuesday next the W.Y.R. will play the rest of the Garrison.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE INDIAN YARN TRADE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE “DAILY PRESS.”

SIR,—The reply of the Bombay millowners to the telegrams of the native Cotton Yarn Guild advocating curtailed production is nothing more than was generally expected. I wonder if these gentry, the next time they happen to get into such a tight corner as at present, will not have the cheek to ask the cotton growers in America to cease sowing cotton until they have got rid of their holdings. The stringency of money has been severely felt for some time all over the place and business in Hongkong. Generally is at a standstill. Then why this fuss and noise over this particular trade? The fact is, there has been a lot of overtrading and inordinate speculation of late, bringing naturally in their train serious losses and dislocation of business. The class of men we deal with, with some honourable exceptions, is deteriorating, and these men are being led by the nose by some interested foreigners and incited to draw their chestnuts out of the fire.

ALPHA.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1897.

SUPPRESSION OF AN INSURRECTION.

A Tientsin despatch reports the return to that port on the 2nd instant of General Nieh, Provincial Commander-in-chief of Chihli, from crushing the recent insurrection of secret society men, disbanded soldiery, and banditti near Pingchuan-chou, just beyond the Great Wall, which at one time almost endangered the safety of the city of Jehu. The insurrection began in September last, and at first the Imperial troops appeared to have been defeated. General Nieh and his foreign-modelled corps of 15,000 men were then appealed to for aid by the Manchu Military Governor of Jehu, and it was only recently crushed by the capture and decapitation of the principal leaders of the insurrection and the dispersing of their followers—until the next time.—N. C. Daily News.

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

The completion of the Trans-Siberian railway seems likely to be deferred to a much later date than was at one time supposed. From Vladivostok to Khabarovka, a distance of something under 500 miles, the line is open; but the rolling-stock is very poor, and the traffic is worked very slowly. The section from Khabarovka to Stretensk, a distance of 1,349 miles, has not yet been touched. From Stretensk to Lake Baikal the line is open and the trains are transported across Lake Baikal in the summer on two large ferry steamers built by Armstrongs. In Western Siberia there are still two large gaps in the line. There is some doubt now whether the line will be carried through Manchuria after all. The original surveyors reported that as the country at the western end was mostly a plain, the construction there would be very easy; but it is found now that this plain is full of swamps, and is intersected by rivers whose beds are very capricious, and a great part of the line will have to be carried on bridges, whose construction will be excessively costly; while at the eastern end there is some very heavy tunnelling. It is considered doubtful now whether the line can be completed in ten years from the present time.—*N. C. Daily News.*

RUSSIAN ALARMS.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—

There is considerable talk and feeling among the people regarding the course of the Germans, and the rumours of Russia's movements in the North. These are not understood, and not a little fear is expressed as to their significance. There is good ground for this fear in view of the recent *démouement* in Corea. As a gentleman said recently, if they succeed with Mr. McLeavy Brown in Corea, Sir Robert Hart's turn may come next. A little incident which occurred recently in Peking, if it is correctly reported, and there is good reason for saying it is not all rumour, indicates which way the wind is blowing. The report is to this effect, that on his return from inspecting the railway to and beyond Shanhaikuan, H.E. Hu Yü-fên was visited by the Russian Minister, who wished to know why the Chinese employed the English to build their railways and urging that as Russia was the neighbour to China on the north it would be more proper and the right thing to do, to ask Russia to do this work for China. He disavowed any instructions from his own Government in the matter, and simply offered this as his "opinion." H.E. Hu replied that they were building their own railroads; it was true that they had a large number of employé, not all of whom were English however, but that it was not true that the English, or any others, were building their railways; his Government was managing the entire affair itself. The Russian Minister pressed his point, and said it was quite natural that they should ask the English to build their southern lines as England was their neighbour in Burma, but not so in the north, where Russia was the neighbour, still disavowing anything but an "opinion." H.E. Hu is said to have become somewhat angry at this persistence, and replied still more strongly that China was building, and intended to build, her own railways. It is further reported that a few days after this interview, the Tsungli Yamen received an official dispatch advising in rather a peremptory manner the discharge of all the English employés on the railroad, and the employment in their places of Russians.

A RUSSIAN MILITARY ADVISER FOR CHINA.

Information has reached us to the effect that a Russian Military Adviser has been engaged by the China Government. The engagement was obviously made some little time back, as the official is expected to arrive daily, if he is not already in China. The fact may have been perfectly well known to our representation, but until a few days ago it was a secret to the general public. The "engagement," which is by far the most serious step on Russia's part which China has acquiesced in, is in perfect harmony with Russia's general programme in the Far East, and verifies what we have been

predicting. It is also in harmony with the Cassini Convention, in connection with which we may mark off another detail accomplished. It brings into sharper relief the fact that a crisis has arrived, or is arriving, in the history of China's intercourse with foreign Powers, which will open a new and eventful chapter for all concerned. Russia is standing with a pistol levelled at China's head and getting all she wants. The situation can only be levelled up by some other Power getting on China's other side with a gatling gun. But it may be that the gatling gun will be reserved for the defence of more vital southern interests. The position of affairs is such, however, as to lend vivid colouring and effect to every movement, and we may anticipate very interesting developments at brief intervals.—*Peking and Tientsin Times.*

HONGKONG.

The synagogue case is not yet finished and it looks as if it would resolve itself into a local Jarndyce suit. The Criminal Sessions, which broke into the case, opened on Friday, but owing to some extraordinary bungling a most scandalous delay, as the Judge properly termed it, occurred in court through the absence of a prisoner. The Sanitary Board had a meeting on Thursday last. The annual meeting of the Hongkong Benevolent Society was held on Friday and in the evening of the same day the Engineers' Institution gave a very enjoyable dance at the City Hall. On Monday the Legislative Council met and passed a resolution providing for the payment by merchant shipping of 1 cent per ton for light dues. On Monday information reached Hongkong of a daring attack on Haiphong, during which Mr. Gauthier was brutally murdered.

There were 2,770 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week of whom 237 were Europeans.

In the football match on the 20th December Club beat the West Yorkshire Regiment by four goals to nil.

At the inquest held at Yokohama on the late Captain Waddilove a verdict of temporary insanity was returned.

H.M.S. *Centurion* and *Iphigenia* left for the North on 16th December. Admiral Buller was on board the *Centurion*.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 21, and for the Chinese 23.3.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Orange Free State will join the Universal Postal Union on the 1st January next.

Amended rules for the government of licensed boarding houses for Chinese seamen are published in the *Government Gazette*.

A Chinaman who had returned from banishment was on 18th Dec. sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment by the Police Magistrate.

On 18th Dec. an excise officer was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for stealing \$50 from a house he had entered for the purpose of searching for opium.

The maximum temperature last month was 85.6, on the 4th, and the minimum 51.1, on the 25th, the mean for the month being 69.8. The rainfall was 7.32 inches.

The Indian trader who was charged with stealing some gold of the value of \$85 from a shop in Stanley Street was on 17th December sent to gaol for six months with hard labour.

At the annual installation meeting of the Perseverance Lodge, No. 1165, held on 16th Dec. Wor. Bro. F. W. Edwards, who had been re-elected Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the ensuing year was duly proclaimed by the District Grand Master, Right Wor. Bro. the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., who was attended by the Grand Lodge Officers. Wor. Bro. Edwards appointed and invested his officers as follows:—S.W., Bro. D. E. Brown; J.W., Bro. Dr. F. Clark; Treasurer, Bro. A. Seth; Hon. Secretary, Bro. C. Dick Melbourne; S.D., Bro. E. L. C. Berger; J.D., Bro. A. H. Bottenheim; D.C., Bro. E. C. Creagh; Steward, Bro. J. Hooper; Organist, Bro. C. W. Longuet; I.G., Bro. A. G. Ward; Tyler, Bro. J. Grimble. After the Lodge was closed the brethren dined together in the banquetting hall, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. Bro. Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., honoured the Lodge with his presence.

H. E. the Governor has given his assent, in his name and on behalf of the Queen, to the Widows and Orphans' Pensions Amendment Ordinance and the Ordinance to facilitate the Recovery of Possession of Tenements and Premises of small value.

The German steamer *Martha* was towed into Manila on the 16th December by the N. Y. K. steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, having lost her propeller. The *Yamashiro Maru*, which was expected to arrive at Hongkong from Australia on 17th December, did not in consequence of this delay arrive until the 19th.

A telegram from Kamb, dated 7th December, states:—"Rough cleaning up of battery yielded 2,100 oz. amalgam, the estimated quantity of stone crushed being 1,072 tons." In consequence of arrangements having been made to have the final clean-up at the end of the year, the above rough clean-up is for four weeks' work only, instead of for five weeks as is usual. Estimating the gold in the amalgam at 35 per cent., the quantity of smelted gold may be taken at 735 ounces from 1,072 tons, or over 13½ dwt. per ton. On Monday, 8th November, a general clean-up took place for nine weeks' work, when 2,453 tons of ore yielded 1,752 ozs. 16 dwt. 0 grs. smelted gold, being an average of about 14 dwt. 7 grs. per ton.

At 3 p.m. on the 17th instant an explosion occurred at the Tchang Bo, Government Powder factory in Canton. Lately large orders for powder have been executed at the factory, and owing to the carelessness on the part of one of the workmen a spark caused the explosion. Of the twenty-two people in the shops at the time the catastrophe occurred only one escaped uninjured. Some received severe injuries, while the greater number were missing, and three or four corpses had half their bodies blown away. An engineering yard and a temple near the factory were partially destroyed. The people about the district were all panic-stricken. A number of soldiers were despatched to the scene to preserve order, and a Wei Yuen was commissioned to make a full report of the damage sustained and the number of lives lost.

The organ recital given in St. John's Cathedral on the 20th December by Mr. A. G. Ward was exceptionally well attended and it is unnecessary to say that the music was thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Ward played six pieces, and if applause could have been permitted in the church he would certainly have received ample evidence of how greatly his audience appreciated him. But the perfect silence that was maintained throughout and the wrapt attention shown spoke almost more eloquently than applause, and we trust Mr. Ward will make a point of giving recitals at more frequent intervals. Unfortunately Mrs. Dodwell was unable to fulfil her engagement to sing, owing to indisposition, and Mr. C. W. Spriggs was the only vocalist. He sang "Be thou faithful until death" with much expression and good taste. At the close of the recital a collection was made in aid of the organ fund.

The woman who was charged with kidnapping a child on the 2nd November, 1896, was on 15th Dec. discharged by the Magistrate. The story told by the witnesses for the prosecution was rather a peculiar one. A certain gardener had a daughter and when his wife died he betrothed this girl, then only a year old, to the son of another gardener. This second gardener was also a widower and undertook the charge of the little girl, who thenceforth lived with him and his son. Everything went on smoothly until the end of last year. On the 10th October, 1896, the defendant was brought to the second gardener by another man. Upon seeing him she declared that she was willing to live with him as his wife, and forthwith took up her abode in the house. In the following month, he had occasion to go to Shamshuiipo and upon his return found the woman and the little girl, then 12 years of age, gone. He reported the matter at the Yaumati Station, but either because he had omitted to mention the fact or the Inspector on duty had forgotten to note it, no mention was made in the report book about the girl being taken away. Though another gardener swore to having met the woman and the girl on the day in question, His Worship thought the evidence insufficient to convict the woman, but he strongly cautioned her about her behaviour in future.

During the month of November 3,420,000 yen in gold coins is reported to have been exported from Japan.

A number of subscription griffins which arrived by the steamer *Wingsung* were drawn for on the 14th December at Kennedy's Causeway Baystables by the following gentlemen—Messrs. D. Gillies, G. H. Potts, Smith, R. M. Gray, J. J. Bell Irving, (2), J. May, J. Gove, G. D. Boening, R. H. Bruce, C. Beermann, and H. N. Mody.

Messrs. W. Robinson & Co. are to be congratulated on their production of Robinson's Album of Music for Christmas, 1897, which is edited by Mr. A. G. Ward, organist of St. John's Cathedral. The Album is composed of purely local talent and is very tastefully got up; the printing is excellent. The contents are:—

1.—Song... "Oh! Listen Sweet One," James Orange
2.—Gavotte Moderne... Arthur G. Ward
3.—Waltz "Ma Premiere Romance," Rachel Benjamin
4.—Barn Dance "Flirt and Frolic," N. Ruchwaldy
5.—Mazurka... "Fan Tan," A. B.
6.—March... "Eastern Wedding," N. Ruchwaldy
Mr. Orange's beautiful little song, "Oh, listen Sweet One," must be well known and appreciated by a number of Hongkong people, having been composed expressly for the pantomime "Robinson Crusoe," given by the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club a few years ago. The words are by the Hon. N. G. Mitchell-Innes. The "Gavotte Moderne," by Mr. A. G. Ward, is written in an exceedingly quaint and pretty style, and we hope to be favoured with many more items from the writer's talented pen. "Ma Premier Romance," by Rachel Benjamin, is a good waltz, the first number having a particularly pretty and dreamy air. Mr. Ruchwaldy's barn dance, "Flirt and Frolic," and his march, "Eastern Wedding," are both bright and cheerful. Mr. Ruchwaldy seems to excel in barn dances, his "Tere Vert" being very successful last year. "Fan Tan," by A. B. is a polka mazurka and should be very easy to dance to.

It was a pity there was not a larger attendance at the City Hall on Saturday night, 18th December, when a concert was given by Professor Merck. Those who were present had the pleasure of listening to one of the best concerts, from a musical point of view, ever given in the colony. Professor Merck had obtained the assistance of Mrs. Jewell, Messrs. W. G. Bentley, Giraud, and G. P. Lammert, and with such well known names as these on the programme we need scarcely say that each item was rendered in quite masterly style. The first to appear were Professor Merck and Mr. G. P. Lammert in an adagio and allegro for cello and piano, and the effective way in which they played this difficult piece at once aroused the enthusiasm of the audience. Mrs. Jewell followed with "Good Night" and "The Gay Gitana." She sang the former with fine taste and expression, and put a great deal of vivacity into the latter. The next item was a clarinet solo by Mr. W. G. Bentley, "La Traviata," which was most artistically rendered. Professor Merck brought the first part of the programme to a conclusion by perfectly playing Berceuse and Serenata with muted strings. The second part opened with a trio (andante and allegro) for violin, cello, and piano, for a fine interpretation of which M. Giraud, Professor Merck, and Mr. Lammert were warmly applauded. Professor Merck followed with a Romance and Vito (Spanish Dance), which he played with splendid execution, and Mrs. Jewell then sang Braga's "Serenata," with cello obligato. This beautiful composition was, perhaps, the gem of the evening. Mrs. Jewell sang with excellent expression and enunciation, and the cello obligato, played by Professor Merck behind the scenes, had a most pleasing effect. Mrs. Jewell acceded to a most determined request for an encore by repeating the last portion of the song. Mr. Bentley was very successful in Meyerbeer's "Shadow Dance," which is a piece that requires a skillful executant, and Professor Merck concluded the programme with a masterly exposition of Saraband Lento, Chanson Napolitaine, and Tarantella. Mr. G. P. Lammert presided at the piano throughout the evening, and much praise is due to him for the careful manner in which he followed the different solos. Professor Merck certainly deserved a large audience, but he could not have wished for a more appreciative one.

A most enjoyable dance was given at the City Hall on Friday evening, 17th December, by the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong. In order to promote comfort in the dancing rooms the invitation list was judiciously curtailed, and the consequence was that St. George's Hall and part of St. Andrew's Hall were never overcrowded, the attendance being just sufficiently large to make a most pleasant social gathering. The rooms were not abundantly draped, but were decorated with only just as much bunting as would set off the interior of the building and give sufficient colour to make the scene a very pleasant one. The evening was cool and dancing was kept up until two o'clock in the morning. The music was supplied by the band of the Hongkong Regiment. The members were most assiduous in their attention to the guests and everyone agreed that the dance could not have been better organized. The following gentlemen were on the Managing Committee:—Messrs. W. Ramsay (Chairman), W. G. Winterburn (Vice-Chairman), J. B. Cousins, R. Mitchell, A. G. Aitken, A. Bain, J. Kyles, H. B. Bridger, A. Sinclair, T. Skinner, J. Gilchrist, C. Allison, A. Ritchie, E. J. Main (Hon. Secretary), J. R. Mudie (Hon. Treasurer), R. Mitchell (Hon. Librarian), J. H. Cheaney (Manager).

MISCELLANEOUS.

Three somewhat serious accidents occurred at Shanghai on the 12th December in cross-country riding. Mr. W. J. N. Dyer sustaining an injury to his hip; Mr. R. Macgregor breaking his arm; and Mr. A. Anderson dislocating his shoulder.

At Yokohama on the 11th December William Cuthbert, charged with the murder of James Gerard, A.B., on board the British sailing vessel *Port Caledonia*, on 20th October, while at Nagasaki, was found guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to five years' penal servitude in Hongkong Gaol.

A despatch from Peking states that two *Djiggit*s, or Cossack couriers, in charge of Russian mail matter for the Legation at the capital, were attacked by a gang of bandits on the way from T'ungchow to Peking in broad daylight. The Cossacks opened fire upon their assailants and wounded two, whereupon the rest decamped. It appeared that the bandits had been on the track of a Tientsin trader who had with him several boxes of sycee. The man learning at T'ungchow that he was tracked, escaped by a ruse, and the robbers seeing the Cossacks' cart, mistook it for their intended victim's vehicle, with the above result. The *tipao* of the ward where the attempted robbery took place failed to report the affair to his superior, the sub-prefect of T'ungchow, who was naturally ignorant of the whole thing until the Tsungli Yamén, which had been informed by the members of the Russian Legation, wrote to the Taotai and ordered the punishment of the local officials. The result was that the *tipao* received 1,000 blows and the sub-prefect had a black mark recorded against him.—*N. C. Daily News*.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON. 14th December.—Congo.—Total settlements for the last month amount to only some 2,800 boxes at from Tls. 10 to 20 per picul. Fourth crop Teas are evidently in very small supply and the quality is only ordinary and calls for no remark. Second Capers.—The market is closed and only a few hundred boxes remain to be shipped of former settlements, and the figures as given below will not be materially augmented. The quantity of leaf carried over in native hands is unusually small, amounting probably to under 5,000 boxes, nearly all of which remains up country. The tea crop generally in this part of China has been one of the smallest ever known. At the commencement of our season some 900,000 lbs. of last season's leaf remained in native hands in Canton, and this has all been absorbed in order to swell the figures to the not heavy export of 4½ millions. We certainly never expected to see all this old leaf exported, and we fear that however strong the position of tea generally may be, the very limited demand for Scented Capers will be once more over taxed.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	5,782,225	6,058,521
Shanghai and Hankow ...	14,058,839	17,809,181
Foochow	12,309,891	12,510,514
Amoy	675,081	589,478
	32,826,036	36,967,698

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	18,823,511	18,214,121
Amoy	12,277,312	16,380,778
Foochow	7,516,903	10,895,536
	38,617,726	45,490,438

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow ...	19,162,293	22,949,123

SHANGHAI 17th December.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' circular).—London telegrams to 15th quote a quiet market, Blue Elephants 10½. Raw Silk.—There has been rather more life in the market lately, and some few transactions have been reported from day to day, mostly for forward delivery, exchange quotations being about 2 per cent per mensem lower for forward transactions. Our quotations below are for three weeks to one month prompt. Tsalees.—1500 bales have been booked, mostly for payment in January (1st to 15th) and to-day buyers are making offers for February payment, but holders are rather difficult to deal with. Taysams.—About 400 bales settled at quotations. Yellow Silks.—Only a small business doing. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 8th to 15th Dec.: 463 bales White, 38 piculs Yellow and 2,584 piculs Wild Silks.

We make the unsold stock as follows:—

White Silk	9,000 bales.
Yellow	2,500 piculs.
Wild	3,500 "

Re-Reels and Filatures.—Small transactions are reported in market chop of Hand Filatures at Tls. 52½. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is as follows: to America 3,351 bales, to Continent 2,359 bales, to London 21 bales, and to Japan 8 bales. Waste Silk.—About 250 piculs Curles have been bought at Tls. 41 for 1, 2, 3, and at Tls. 34 for No. 2 and 3, also some 150 piculs Honan No. 2 at Tls. 22. Pongees.—We hear only 6,000 pieces Shantung being sold at Tls. 3.05 for 22/23 oz. 25in. X 1 1/4 yards.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent; Exchange 2/8½; Freight Tls. 7.8 per bale:—

	Tls.	Stg.
	per	lb.
Tsalees—Buffalo 3	500	11.7
" Blue Elephant	480	11.14
" Yellow	480	10.84
" Beautiful Woman 2	440	10.3
" Stork Cheungling	430	10.04
" Chay Kiling	420	9.10
Taysam.—Gr. Kahing Gold Goose 1	430	10.04
" " " MM	415	9.84
" " " "	393½	9.21
" 9 x 12 Moss Green Stork 2	415	9.84
" " " "	400	9.41
Yellow Silk.—Menchew	295 a 302½	7.0 a 7.2
Szechow	210 a 215	5.1 a 5.2
China Filature—Market Chop	625 a 540	12.2 a 12.6
Wild Silk.—Tussah Filature Three Joss Chop	8 Cocoons	240 8.0

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	7,635	3,086
Canton	8,198	1,914
Yokohama	21,174	6,281
	37,007	11,311

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	25,178,813	23,661,635
Kobe	15,059,463	13,519,653
	40,229,306	37,181,288

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	35,389	30,887
Canton	16,738	16,377
Yokohama	13,197	5,471
	65,324	52,735

CAMPION R

HONGKONG, 21st December.—A slight improvement has to be reported and prices are higher. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$45.00 to \$45.25. Sales, 240 piculs.

SUGAR

HONGKONG, 21st December.—The advance in rates still continues. Quotations are:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.32 to 7.35 per picul.
do. " 2, White... 6.95 to 6.97 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.73 to 4.76 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.61 to 4.64 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...\$7.25 to 7.28 "
do. " 2, White... 6.91 to 6.92 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.65 to 4.67 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.52 to 4.54 "
Soochow Sugar Candy...11.20 to 11.22 "
Shekloong " " " " " 9.73 to 9.75 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

Per German steamer *Bayern*, sailed on the 7th December. For Singapore:—3 cases sundries. For Colombo:—2 boats. For Port Said:—60, packages rattan chairs. For Singapore:—10 cases essential oil. For Trieste:—5 cases essential oil. For Genoa:—75 bales raw silk, 50 bales waste silk, 40 bales canes, 25 packages tea, 2 packages china cord, 2 bales samples of canes and 1 case Manila hats. For New York:—20 cases essential oil. For Antwerp:—505 bales bamboo scraps, 193 cases preserves, 131 bales feathers, 123 bales rattan core, 49 bales canes, 4 cases cigars, 5 bales leaf tobacco, 2 cases blackwoodware and 1 case Chinaware. For Amsterdam:—250 cases ginger, 125 cases preserves, 18 cases cigars, 13 cases chinaware, 2 cases camphorwood boxes and 1 case feathers. For Rotterdam:—100 cases and 100 cases preserves, 50 cases ginger and 5 bales leaf tobacco. For Bremerhaven:—16 cases private effects. For London:—1 bale raw silk. For Bremen:—46 chests tea, 15 cases merchandise, 10 cases ginger, 4 cases cigars, 3 cases paper and 2 cases silk. For Hamburg:—1,000 packages tea, 30 cases essential oil, 4 cases silk, 2 cases cigars, 1 case sundries and 1 case cartoons.

Per steamer *Ulysses*, sailed on the 9th December. For London:—100 bales waste silk, 300 bales hemp, 176 bales canes, 31 bales hammocks, 29 cases bristles, 34 cases cigars, 28 cases gamboje, 552 cases and 100 cases preserves, 454 pieces hides, 9 packages horn tips, 8 packages stonecarvings and 11 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—40 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—3 cases effects, 2 cases blackwoodware and 100 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—25 1/2 chests tea, 6 cases silk piece goods, 1 case chinaware and 1,000 bales hemp. For Glasgow:—2 cases curios and 50 cases and 15 cases ginger. For Hamburg:—127 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—2 cases wood oil. For Beyrouth:—10 cases glass bangles.

Per steamer *Cromarty*, sailed on the 13th December. For New York:—650 packages firecrackers, 50 boxes gallinets, 50 cases bristles, 10 cases human hair, 12 bales galangal, 50 bales bamboo splits, 41 packages ginger, 32 packages cassia and 568 packages merchandise.

Per P. & O. steamer *Mirzapore*, sailed on the 16th December. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London:—7 cases piece goods, 6 cases sundries and 528 boxes tea (10,988 lbs.). For France:—516 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk and 31 cases silk piece goods. For Milan:—80 bales raw silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—Bengal.—The market has ruled steady without an important change in prices. Quotations close at \$687 1/2 for New Patna and at \$722 1/2 for New Benares.

Malwa.—Owing to the fall in the exchange on India, prices for this drug have advanced, the following being current figures:—

New...\$710 with allowance of 0 to 2 1/2 cts.
Old (2 3/4 yrs.) \$720 " " 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 "
" (1 7/8 ") \$760 " " 0 to 1 "

Persian.—There has been scarcely anything doing in this drug during the interval. Oily drug continues to be quoted at \$490 to \$650, and Paper-wrapped at \$510 to \$650 per picul according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,600 chests.
New Benares	530 "
Malwa	260 "
Persian	850 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Dec. 16	687 1/2	—	725	—	710	720/760
Dec. 17	688 1/2	—	725	—	710	720/760
Dec. 18	690	—	722 1/2	—	710	720/760
Dec. 19	690	—	722 1/2	—	710	720/760
Dec. 20	690	—	722 1/2	—	710	720/760
Dec. 21	687 1/2	—	722 1/2	—	710	720/760

RICE.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—The market continues dull and prices have further given way. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.24 to 2.27
" Round, good quality	2.51 to 2.55
" Long	2.73 to 2.78
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 1	2.27 to 2.30
" Garden, " No. 1	2.76 to 2.80
" White	3.65 to 3.70
" Fine Cargo	3.85 to 4.00

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—475 bales No. 19 at \$71 to \$73, 270 bales No. 12 at \$75 to \$77 50, 80 bales No. 16 at \$74 to \$86, 570 bales No. 20 at \$85. 0 to \$90. Japanese Yarn.—30 bales No. 16 at \$86, 25 bales No. 20 at \$88. Grey Shirtings.—3,000 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. 3 Dogs at \$2.95, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Moon and Cork at \$3.37 1/2. White Shirtings.—20 pieces No. 3,000 at \$4.50, 1,000 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.30, 600 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.95, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.10, 500 pieces No. 300 at \$3.57 1/2, 1,000 pieces Gold Pheasant at \$3.45. T-Cloths.—4,500 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.37 1/2, 3,000 pieces 8 lbs. V. V. at \$2.90, 2,400 pieces 8 lbs. X. X. at \$2.95, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Hunter and Stag C. C. at \$3.05, 2,200 pieces 7 lbs. Silver Lion No. 2 at \$1.85, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Silver Lion No. 1 at \$1.92, 200 pieces green Lion Pagoda at \$1.49. Drills.—150 pieces 13 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.35, 300 pieces 14 lbs. Peacock at \$3.95. Turkey Reds.—350 pieces 1 1/2 lbs. Flute-man at \$2.70.

COTTON YARN.	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.	62.00 to 92.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	110.00 to 117.00
" 22 to 24	112.00 to 119.00
" 28 to 32	121.00 to 126.00
" 38 to 42	132.00 to 139.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.70 to 1.80
7lbs.	2.00 to 2.05
8 1/2 lbs.	2.45 to 3.15
9 to 10 lbs.	3.35 to 4.10
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.35 to 2.55
58 to 60 " "	2.70 to 3.40
64 to 66 " "	3.50 to 4.35
Fine	4.30 to 7.10
Book-folds.	3.75 to 5.80
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.65 to 1.20
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.50 to 1.70
7lbs. (32 ")	1.85 to 2.10
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	1.65 to 1.80
7lbs. (32 ")	2.05 to 2.75
8 to 8 1/2 oz. (36 in.)	2.30 to 3.15
Drills, English—40 yds, 13 1/2 to 14lbs	3.70 to 5.10

FANCY COTTONS	per yard
Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 7lbs.	1.45 to 4.00
Brocades—Dyed	4.00 to 4.75
Damasks	0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to 0.14
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.24 to 0.32
Nelvetees—18 in.	0.18 to 0.21

per dozen	per yard	per piece
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.50 to 0.90	
Woolle		
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.62 to 1.30	
German	1.15 to 1.50	
Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths	1.45 to 5.25	
Long Ells—Scarlet	7.15 to 9.60	
Assorted	7.25 to 9.25	
Camlets—Assorted	14.00 to 35.00	

	per piece
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	12.00 to 22.00
Orleans—Plain	3.60 to 4.50
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	5.70 to 12.00
METALS	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.20 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar	4.25 to —
Swedish Bar	5.90 to —
Small Round Rod	4.50 to —
Hoop	4.75 to —
Wire 15/25	8.75 to —
Old Wire Rope	1.50 to 3.00
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop	8.25 to —
Australian	8.25 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/23 oz.	29.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.	28.75 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.	28.75 to —
Composition Nails	— to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	29.50 to —
Tiles	— to —
Tin	— to —
Tin-Plates	5.80 to —
Steel 1/2 to 1	5.50 to —
SUNDRIES	per picul
Quicksilver	126.00 to —
Window Glass	4.00 to —
Kerosene Oil	1.93 to —

PIECE GOODS 16th December.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report) —Money is coming in rapidly and the market, so far as that goes, is greatly relieved and much anxiety has been alleviated. But, with the Northern market now closed to trade, it cannot be expected that clearances will show any improvement or fresh business of importance entered into from stock. Several re-sales of bankrupt stock; it is true, are reported this week, amounting to some 500 packages, but at prices which cannot be considered to fairly represent the market, so we refrain from quoting them. They have certainly had a weakening effect generally, but in times like these every one must work for himself and not stop to consider the common welfare. Otherwise spot transactions have been very circumscribed, as the dealers do not appreciate yet the decline that has taken place in Exchange, a penny, or three per cent, during the week. Some are offering to buy forward, or for delivery after China New Year, but holders are not much inclined to entertain the business, unless very substantial bargain money is paid. At the prices offered the inducement certainly does not seem good enough, and one would think it better to wait until the ordeal of the annual settling is over to see how the dealers come out, for all of them are more or less involved and may be only buying now to reduce their averages, so to speak; it certainly cannot be said to sell now except for cash, to meet any immediate and legitimate consumptive demand. Judging by the Auctions the present demand cannot be very strong, for, despite the decline in sterling rates, prices in many cases were lower this morning, but, considering the quantity offered, this was not strange. As regards the outside markets Ningpo is more active, and a better demand for Yarn, for Szechuen chiefly has been experienced. Politically there is no change in the situation, the air being still full of rumours and every one is anxiously waiting for something to turn up.

METALS, 17th December.—(From Messrs. Alex. Belfield & Co.'s Report.)—Owing to slightly more favourable news from home, where railroads may be had for 130s., c.i.f. there has been a much increased inquiry in Metals, but a number of causes combine to prevent any actual business. Exchange still fluctuates too much to suit the staid merchant, though not sufficient to satisfy the gambler, and actual trade has to wait in consequence. The only transaction reported was:—100 tons Cart Tyres at 104s., c.i.f.

EXCHANGE.

TUESDAY, 21st December.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/00
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.46 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.51

ON GERMANY.—	
On demand.....	1.99½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand.....	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight.....	48½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer.....	149½
Bank, on demand.....	150
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer.....	149½
Bank, on demand.....	150
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight.....	73½
Private, 30 days' sight.....	74½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand.....	3½ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand.....	5½ % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand.....	par.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate.....	10.04
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael.....	52.00

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—Business has been rather more lively during the week and several stocks have changed hands, some at higher rates, notably Banks, Sugars, and Raubs. Rates all round look steadier and the money market not quite so tight either here or in Shanghai.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks.—A small but steady enquiry has resulted in small sales at 175 and 176 per cent. prem. for cash; whilst a demand for forward contracts at rather higher than equivalent rates has not been entirely met. Market closes steady at 176. Nationals have continued on offer without business at \$23.

MARINE INSURANCES.—No business to report under this heading and rates remain unchanged.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue dull at quotation with no business. Chinas have changed hands at \$106, closing steady.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue to rule weak and out of favour, shares being obtainable at \$28 after small sales at \$28½. Indo Chinas remain steady with small sales and sellers at \$51. Douglases have found further buyers at \$57, closing steady to strong at that rate. China Mutuals and China Manilas unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have materially improved to \$161 after sales during the week at \$156, \$157, \$157½, \$158, \$159, \$160, and \$161; the rise may be attributed to reports of good business and to the somewhat easier money market. Luzons are on offer at \$40 without finding buyers.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled steady at \$4.50 with small sales, and close steady at \$5.50 cum. first call on new issue. The period for payment of the first call on the new issue expired on the 20th inst., but the Secretary states that any shareholders who have from any reasonable cause been unable to pay the call can still do so, at his (the Secretary's) discretion. Charbonnages unchanged and without business. New Balmorals have been negotiated at \$1.50 and \$1.40 for Preferences and Ordinaries, closing with sellers at those rates. Jebebus have found further buyers at \$2. Raubs, which declined to \$19½ in the early part of the week, owing apparently to a misapprehension of the result of the November rough clean-up gradually again crept up to \$21, after fair sales at \$19½, \$20, \$20½, and \$21, chiefly to Singapore buyers. The rough clean-up for November, which shows an estimated 777 oz. gold for four weeks, is some 70 oz. better than the 860 oz. shown for five weeks in the last September-October crushing, and advices from the South say that the result of the November-December crushing will be very good. The new machinery, however, which was to have been fixed by May, will, it is understood, be delayed until August on account of the engineers' strike at home. Oliver's A. have been done and continue on offer at \$19, whilst B's have declined to \$7 and \$7½ with sales and sellers at \$7½. Great Easterns have continued on offer and small sales have been effected at \$2.90 and \$3, closing with further sellers at \$3.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been in fair demand at 220 per cent. prem., but very few shares were obtainable at that rate, and

only small sales were effected; at time of closing a point or two higher would probably be paid for small lots, but holders in consideration of rumours of a satisfactory half-year's working are in no hurry to part at present rates. Wharves (Kowloon) have ruled weak with small sales at \$58 and \$59. Wanchais have changed hands at \$41; the sale being more or less a forced one the rate must not be accepted as a current one, as it is very improbable that any more could be obtained at it. On the other hand any further shares thrown on the market would not fetch more.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have changed hands and close steady at \$74, Hotels at \$49, and Kowloon Lands at quotations. West Points and Humphreys Estates continue steady at quotations, but with no business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have further improved to \$33½ and \$18½ after sales at \$32½ & \$17½ and \$33 & \$18 for old and new. Cotton Mills have not been dealt in locally, but Shanghai reports sales of Internationals at \$110. Lan Kung Mows at \$103, and Soy Chees at \$90. No further business under this heading to report.

Closing quotations are as follow:

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$345, sales
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	176 ½ prem.
China & Japan, pref.	\$5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	\$3 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	\$1	\$5.5s., buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares.....	\$8	\$23
Founders Shares...	\$1	\$23, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	\$1	\$5
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75, sellers
China Sugar.....	\$100	\$161, sal. & buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 100
Hongkong.....	\$20	17, sellers
International.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Lan Kung Mow.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 103
Soyche.....	Tls. 500	Tls. 530
Yahloong.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$5	\$53
Penwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$29
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$33½, sal. & buyers
Do. New Issue.....	\$2½	\$18½, sal. & buyers
H. & China Bakery.....	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas.....	\$10	\$120
Hongkong Electric.....	\$10	\$14, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways.....	\$100	\$112, buyers
Hongkong Hotel.....	\$50	\$49, buyers
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$113
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$58, sales & buyers
Hongkong Repre.....	\$50	\$170
H. & W. Dock.....	\$125	\$220 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		\$400, sales & b.
Canton.....	\$50	\$157½, sellers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$106, sales
China Traders.....	\$25	\$70
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$365
North-China.....	\$25	Tls. 118, sellers
Straits.....	\$20	\$17, sellers
Union.....	\$25	\$23½, sellers
Yangtze.....	\$60	\$150, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$74, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate....	\$10	\$9.25, sellers
Kowloon Land & B....	\$30	\$19, sales
West Point Building	\$40	\$21½
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$40, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages.....	Fcs. 500	\$5.05, buyers
Great E. & C. Donian	\$1	\$6, sellers
Do. Do.....	\$2½	\$3, sales & sellers
Jebebu.....	\$5	\$2, sellers
New Balmoral.....	\$1	\$1.40, sal. & sellers
Do. Preference....	\$1	\$1.50, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A....	\$5	\$19, sales
Do. B.....	\$2½	\$7½, sales
Punjom.....	\$4	\$5.50, cum. sal. & b.
Do. Preference....	\$1	\$1.20, sales
Raubs.....	13s. 10d.	\$21, sales & buyers
New Amoy Dock.....	\$10	\$18, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$76, sellers
China Mutual Ord....	\$5	\$2 1½s. buyers
Do. Preference....	\$10	\$7 10s. buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$57, buyers
H., Canton and M....	\$15	\$28, sales
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$51, sales & sellers
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.....	\$2	\$2, sellers
United Asbestos.....	\$2	\$2, sellers
Do.....	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37½	\$41, sales & buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 17th December.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—The supply of money has become larger, but the bare market has not greatly benefited by this during the week, there being but little change in rates, and the business done was small. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Only two transactions are reported at 175 and 174 per cent. premium, for delivery on the 31st December. Insurance.—No local business is reported in any of the Marine or Fire Insurance shares. Shipping.—Business has been confined to sales of Indo-China S. N. shares at Tls. 37½ for December and Tls. 39½ for April. Docks, Wharves, and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farham & Co. have been placed at Tls. 115, and are wanted. Shanghai Engineering and Dock shares changed hands at Tls. 85 and Tls. 86 for the 31st current, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares at Tls. 116 cash. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 90. Industrial.—Major Brothers shares were placed at Tls. 32. In Cotton Mill shares: Ewos were sold at Tls. 100, Internationals at Tls. 110 for cash and for the 31st current, and Lan-kung-mows at Tls. 101 cash, Tls. 103 for December and Tls. 110 for the 31st March. Soy Chee shares are offering. China Flour Mill shares changed hands at Tls. 63 and 66 cash and Tls. 71½ for the 31st March, and American Cigarette shares at Tls. 90 and Tls. 100. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were sold at Tls. 205 ex the third interim dividend of Tls. 5, paid on the 15th instant. Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were parted with at Tls. 19½. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-umatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 82 cash, Tls. 90 for March and Tls. 91 for April, and shares are wanted. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 275 for the 31st current, and Tls. 275 to 285 for cash, with sales for the 31st May at Tls. 400. Loans.—A small lot of Shanghai-Langkai 10 per cent. Debentures was sold at par, plus the accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 17th December (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—There has been no further fall in rates to London, and it is reported that the Conference Agents have made arrangements to carry on the existing agreement till the close of the current Conference year. The New York rate remains unchanged at 27s. 6d. Coastwise.—We hear that all steamers at Taku have been ordered to return, indicating an immediate closing of the northern ports for the winter. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 32s. 6d.; waste silk 35s.; tea 32s. 6d.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 32s. 6d.; waste silk 35s.; tea 32s. 6d.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 40s.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 45s.; waste silk 47s. 6d.; tea 4 s.; Konigsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 2d.; tea 40s.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 45s.; waste silk 47s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 40s.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 32s. 6d.; waste silk 35s.; tea 32s. 6d. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail, 20s.; New York via Pacific, 1½ gold cents per lb. tea, 3 cents per lb. silk, \$9 per ton strawbraid; New York via Suez, 27s. 6d. per ton general cargo, 27s. 6d. tea; Boston, 35s. per ton general cargo; Philadelphia, 35s. per ton general cargo. Coast rates.—Moji to Shanghai \$1.15 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.15 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe season closed; Newchwang to southern ports, season closed; Wuhu to Canton, 15 cands.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Myrmidon (str.), Malacca (str.), Chusan (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—New York, Coptic (str.), City of Rio de Janeiro (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Dromedary, Gerard C. Tobey Garrowdale (str.), Sikh (str.).
For BREMEN.—Prinz Heinrich (str.).
For BALTIMORE.—Standard.
For PORTLAND.—Mogul (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—Tokio Maru (str.), Taiyuan (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—Pectan (str.).
For SEATTLE.—Riojun Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

December—ARRIVALS.

16, Prinz Heinrich, German str., from Bremen.
 16, Dante, German str., from Saigon.
 16, Tailee, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Anna Bertha, Ger. bark, from Whampoa.
 16, Trieste, Austrian str., from Kobe.
 16, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 16, Hansa, German str., from Moji.
 16, Centaur, British str., from Bangkok.
 16, Frejr, Danish str., from Haiphong.
 16, Lucia, British bark, from Amoy.
 16, Glengyle, British str., from London.
 17, Peacock, British gunboat, from Swatow.
 17, Fernfield, British str., from Amoy.
 17, Germania, German str., from Mororan.
 17, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 17, Kweiyang, British str., from Tientsin.
 17, Terrier, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 17, Whampoa, British str., from Chinkiang.
 17, Wuofan, German str., from Saigon.
 17, Taichow, British str., from Bangkok.
 18, Loongmoon, British str., from Canton.
 18, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 18, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 18, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
 18, Braemar, British str., from Portland (Or.).
 18, Sullberg, German str., from Haiphong.
 18, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 18, Kingsing, British str., from Swatow.
 18, Wuhu, British str., from Canton.
 18, Contest, British bark, from Amoy.
 18, Chingwo, British str., from London.
 18, Knivsberg, German str., from Haiphong.
 18, Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.
 18, Sumatra, British bark, from Rajang.
 18, Yayeyama Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 19, Amoy, German str., from Chefoo.
 19, Cheang Hock Kian, Brit. str., from S'pore.
 19, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 19, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 19, Niobe, German str., from Hamburg.
 19, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.
 19, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 19, Yamashiro Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
 19, Selkirk, British ship, from Cardiff.
 19, Petrel, Amr. gunboat, from Swatow.
 19, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
 19, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
 19, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 20, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
 20, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 20, Pyrrhus, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Mount Tabor, British ship, from Hamburg.
 20, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
 20, Radnorshire, British str., from London.
 20, Ernest Simons, French str., from Shanghai.
 20, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Foochow.
 20, Nanyo Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
 20, Poseidon, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 20, Krim, Norwegian str., from Kebao.
 21, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
 21, Kingsing, British str., from Canton.
 21, Canton, British str., from Yokohama.
 21, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 21, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
 21, Volute, British str., from Kobe.
 21, Yikang, British str., from Taku.
 21, Hermann, German str., from Saigon.
 21, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., from S'pore.
 21, Tokio Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 21, Hinsang, British str., from Samarang.

December—DEPARTURES.

16, Smit, Dutch str., for Kobe.
 16, Mirzapore, British str., for Europe.
 16, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
 16, Peru, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 16, Deucalion, British str., for Kudat.
 16, Holstein, German str., for Hongay.
 16, Jason, British str., for Amoy.
 16, Kong Beng, British str., for Bangkok.
 16, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 16, Centurion, H.M. flagship, for Chefoo.
 17, Astral, British str., for Sembilan.
 17, Catherine Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
 17, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
 17, Fausang, British str., for Yokohama.
 17, Hainan, German str., for Nagasaki.
 17, Kirkfield, British str., for Calcutta.
 17, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.
 17, Peter Rickmers, Ger. ship, for Portland.
 17, Tamarind, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
 17, Thales, British str., for Swatow.

17, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
 18, Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
 18, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 18, Hermes, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 18, Hohenzollern, German str., for Yokohama.
 18, Canton, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 18, Pakhoi, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Peshawar, British str., for Bombay.
 18, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for S'hai.
 18, Tailee, German str., for Swatow.
 18, Trieste, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 18, Tsinan, British str., for Australia.
 19, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Glengyle, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for H'phong.
 19, Kingsing, British str., for Canton.
 19, Wuhu, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 19, Lyeemoon, Ger. str., for Canton.
 19, Terrier, Norw. str., for Canton.
 20, Memnon, British str., for Kudat.
 21, Fernfield, British str., for New York.
 21, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Swatow.
 21, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 21, Chingwo, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Niobe, German str., for Shanghai.
 21, Sullberg, German str., for Haiphong.
 21, Saint Mark, Amr. ship, for New York.
 21, Cheang Hock Kian, British str., for Amoy.
 21, Choyang, British str., for Canton.
 21, Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.
 21, Dante, German str., for Saigon.
 21, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 21, Pyrrhus, British str., for London.
 21, Sabine Rickmers, German str., for Swatow.
 21, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., for London.
 21, Narcissus, British cruiser, for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Bremen, &c., Miss A. Pactow, Messrs. Tetzlaff and family, E. Voss, C. Calender, Misses Veal, Caine, Miller, Mrs. B. Brennan, Mrs. McEwen, Misses Jukes, Harves, Bolton, Mr. Konishi, Misses Shackleton and Bullock, Dr. Colborne, Mrs. Crowe, Messrs. Keller-Stürke, Mannich, Haesloop and family, Miss Booth, Mr. Röders, Pastor and Mrs. Kriele, Miss Grotefend, Mr. Glinz, Miss Trebsdorf, Messrs. Obana, J. J. Jenson, Wessel, Chemeliczek, Kunze, Schellbass, Prof. M. Ogata, Messrs. Knochenhauer and Zimmermann.
 Per *Glengyle*, from London, &c., Mr. Wm. Porter.
 Per *Sungkiang*, from Manila, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. and Mrs. Cucculler.
 Per *Formosa*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. Brownhill, Evans, and Mrs. Streich.
 Per *Fushun*, from Shanghai, Mrs. Wood and children, Messrs. Lake and Grant, and Miss Pocker.
 Per *Lyeemoon*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Otto Anz, Georg Eschenburg, and Graham.
 Per *Niobe*, from Hamburg, &c., Mr. and Mrs. A. Corneiro.
 Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Moss, Bishop and Mrs. Joy, and Mrs. Schluter.
 Per *Suisang*, from Calcutta, &c., Rev. and Mrs. Thompson and child, Messrs. Donald, Christie, Davies, and Lee Ah Kam.
 Per *Yamashiro Maru*, from Melbourne, Mrs. Thompson and infant, Miss L. Bibb, Mr. P. A. Walker, Hon. Mrs. Montague, Mr. H. Mason; for Japan, Consul T. J. Naragawa, Messrs. Myahara and Ohno.
 Per *Ernest Simons*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Messrs. E. L. Hunter, Campbell, J. da Silva, Nils Moller, and Angus McPhail; for Singapore, Messrs. Bogliano and C. E. Barron; for Batavia, Mr. G. de Beer; for Colombo, Mr. James Shaid; for Port Said, Mr. A. P. Maligin; for Marseilles, Messrs. Geo. Butler, G. W. Mackenzie, and A. Kaveline, Mrs. Trenfeldt, Dr. Komanoosky, Mr. Lempereur, Mrs. Tronoff, Miss Ivanoff, Mr. Le Ferec Prigent Jean Marie; from Kobe, for Hongkong, Mr. H. T. Safford, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Warner, Miss Warner, Mrs. Arada Thul, Messrs. H. Miller, H. N. Van Keuren, Rudolph Seykora, H. C. W. Blyth, le Caron Kumerskirch, W. J. Callender, and Le Dr. Little, Mr. and Mrs. Brett, Messrs. Fisher and Jendwine; for Colombo, Mr. Alexis Presoir; for Marseilles, Mr. L. k-pie, le Comte and Vicomte de Mercy, le Comte de la Begassiere, Messrs. J. P. Smul-

ders and Vaschoor; from Yokohama for Hongkong, Messrs. Cullieret, Hayet, Meissonnier, A. P. N. Mohamed; for Saigon, Mr. Marquie, Mrs. and Miss Lanthomme, Messrs. Veaux and Lachapelle; for Singapore, Mr. W. Quan Choon; for Pondichery, Mr. Nivert; for Marseilles, Messrs. Saburo Yamada, Sichha Tatsuki, S. Totaro, and S. Yoshizo.

Per *Coptic*, from San Francisco, &c., Misses Ethel Ashill, Harriet Lewis, Ambor Crocker, Bessie Presby and Emily Simpson, Mrs. James Farey, Mrs. Capt. Finch, Mrs. R. T. Hall, Mrs. L. Neilson, Mrs. Fiske and child, Mrs. James Simpson and Mrs. C. M. Presby, Capt. S. Mathews, Dr. J. Rosenstirn, Mr. and Mrs. Lam Ching Wah, Messrs. T. D. McKay, C. Buckingham, Jesse J. Barker, W. T. Cary, A. Kuhn, J. G. Birch, Oswald Simpson and R. O. Anderson and 533 Chinese.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Messrs. A. Inglis, A. Kufsen, M. Schanz, F. E. Coney and R. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. J. Remersal and Mrs. J. Sanger.

Per *Poseidon*, from Trieste, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Fischer.

DEPARTED.

Per *Mirzapore*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Harris, Miss Harris, and Mr. Lawrence; for Bombay, Mr. S. K. Samsuddin; for London, Mr. J. Chestes Mort, Lieut. H. A. Edward, R.N.R. Mrs. Wylie and 3 children; from Shanghai for London, via Marseilles, Mr. J. H. Craven, Surg-Major F. S. Hueston; for London, Miss D. N. Wallace, Miss J. Branscombe, and Miss J. T. Hoskyn; from Yokohama for Colombo, Messrs. A. J. Virini, C. Wreun, Revs. E. Reid and C. Beard; from Kobe for Calcutta, Mr. and Mrs. Espiesse and Misses Espiesse (2); from Kobe for Singapore, Miss Matsuka.

Per *Peru*, for Nagasaki, Mr. T. T. Gause; for Kobe, Messrs. R. Harris, Chau Mo Wan, and Emil Nissele; for Honolulu, Mr. Mur Fook; for San Francisco, Mrs. J. A. Borel, Miss Alice Borel, Master H. Borel, Messrs. W. B. Ellis, H. B. Bailey, and G. H. Gaynor.

Per *Verona*, from Hongkong for Nagasaki, Mrs. Asetu, Mr. K. Wada, Mr. and Mrs. D. Crowe; for Kobe, Messrs. R. Vershybhoj and J. Bankin; for Yokohama from Colombo, Mr. F. G. Barraeta; from Brindisi, Mr. L. W. Barringer and Misses Barringer (2).

Per *Thales*, for Swatow, Mrs. Haesloop, governess and 3 children; for Amoy, Messrs. Yamamoto and Anderson; for Taiwan, Miss Benning and Mr. J. Mannich.

Per *Hohenzollern*, from Southampton, for Yokohama, Dr. and Mrs. Colborne, Messrs. S. Konshi, Shackleton and Bullock; for Nagasaki, Mrs. D. Crowe; from Genoa, for Yokohama, Mrs. A. Booth, and Mrs. E. Trebsdorf, Messrs. Fobana and H. C. Jenson; from Naples, for Yokohama, Prof. M. Ogata; from Genoa, for Kobe, Messrs. Th. Wassel, T. Onens-Merechl and R. Keenge; from Singapore, for Nagasaki, Messrs. B. Osuga and O-sang; for Yokohama, Mr. J. C. M. V. Binsbergery; from Hongkong, for Yokohama, Mr. Moeff.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Bremen, for Shanghai, Messrs. W. Bose and Paul Bertram; from Southampton, Dr. Wises, Messrs. Bretton, Geller, Wm. Drummond, Stoeckhauser, C. Larkin, and H. Ievavell, Mr. and Mrs. S. Bourke and child, Mr. and Mrs. Twentymann and family and Miss Jansen; from Genoa, Messrs. F. C. Hanson, G. Jamison, H. I. V. Brockdorff, Paul Kempee and Rob. Kaess, Mr. and Mrs. Steeven, Rev. and Mrs. Smithe, Rev. A. E. Gremeng, Misses Jamison (2) and F. Madelly; from Naples, Messrs. F. Ruchee, Th. Rehm, C. Edwards, and T. Bourke; from Hongkong, Messrs. J. A. Moller and F. Bornemann and Misses Rodewald (2).

Per *Hongkong*, for Haiphong, Mr. J. W. Jamieson (H. M. Consul).

Per *Hailan*, for Pakhoi, Mrs. Bolton, and Mrs. Havers.

Per *Tsinan*, for Port Darwin, Mr. R. K. Rundle; for Brisbane, Mr. W. H. Blake; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Carson, and Mr. G. Mawlew.

Per *Trieste*, for Penang, Messrs. G. W. Jones, L. Kanuez, and P. Clansey; for Bombay, Mrs. E. Horsey.

Printed and Published by D. WARRES SMITH, at 29, Wyndham Street, Victoria, Hongkong.